



**Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan 2020-2024**

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Parks have become an integral part of our lifestyles. These areas provide many benefits to a great cross-section of County residents. Children learn to interact and play with other children, teens enjoy having a safe place to hang out with one another, and parents and seniors enjoy taking part in family activities or simply enjoying the outdoors. Even dogs have a special park for them. Outdoor recreation is a major component of the high quality of life enjoyed by those that live in, or visit, Portage County.

The State of Wisconsin has established a continuing program to financially assist State and local outdoor recreation programs. Section 23.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes establishes the Outdoor Recreational Program, the purpose of which is to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreational facilities and services...and to facilitate and encourage the fullest beneficial public use of these areas”.

This updated Portage County Outdoor Recreation Plan provides a database and recommendations which may be utilized by community officials, staff, and residents of Portage County to understand and promote comprehensive outdoor recreation planning. It is intended to serve as a policy document of the County Park Commission, the County Planning and Zoning Committee and the County Board of Supervisors. Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

PORTAGE COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

The Portage County Board of Supervisors established the Park Commission in 1935, under Chapter 27.02 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. The seven member Commission consists of four (4) County Board Supervisors, whose term is subject to re-election every two years, and three (3) citizen members who serve seven year terms. The Commission discharges those responsibilities granted under Chapter 27.05.

The mission of the Portage County Park Commission is to enhance and maintain the quality of life for Portage County citizens by providing a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities such as biking, birding, fishing, skiing, viewing, swimming, etc., in natural settings throughout County Park facilities and programs.

PAST PLANNING

Portage County developed its first outdoor recreation policy manual in 1966. That manual and a subsequent 1969 update were written for the purpose of meeting the County recreation demands and qualifying for State and Federal recreation aids. The policy manual was expanded and reworked to create the first Portage County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), which was adopted in 1971.

Since the adoption of the 1971 CORP, the Portage County Park Commission has adopted plan updates in 1977, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2001, 2007, and 2012. These Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan updates were undertaken to adjust policies and acquisition/improvement priorities as needed, and to continue State and/or Federal funding eligibility.

CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS

This update of the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan was initiated by the County Parks Director in the spring of 2019. Consistent with past practice, the Parks Department requested the assistance of the Planning and Zoning Department in drafting the document. A draft of the Plan was ultimately forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Committee and Park Commission for review and public hearing.

Included in this document is a detailed inventory of existing facilities and an analysis of how local conditions (i.e. population, climate, and general physical characteristics) affect recreational needs throughout the County. This Outdoor Recreation Plan is short-range in scope, addressing a 5 year planning period, and continual update of this Plan serves to facilitate evaluation of current recreation capabilities and needs while maintaining the County's eligibility for various State and federal outdoor recreation grant programs. The Portage County Park Commission shall review and update this Plan in light of changing conditions and needs, with possible input from the County Planning and Zoning Committee. Amendments shall follow the same process as the original Plan including: a public meeting(s)/hearing on the proposed amendment(s); approval by the County Planning and Zoning Committee and County Park Commission; and adoption by the County Board.

SECTION 2

COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS

This section describes the population and physical features that make up Portage County, located in central Wisconsin, bordered by Adams, Wood, Marathon, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties. It includes 28 units of government: 17 Towns, 9 Villages, the City of Stevens Point, and Portage County, with a total land area of approximately 823 square miles (526,813 acres), and a 2010 Census population of 70,019.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Historic Change and Geographical Distribution

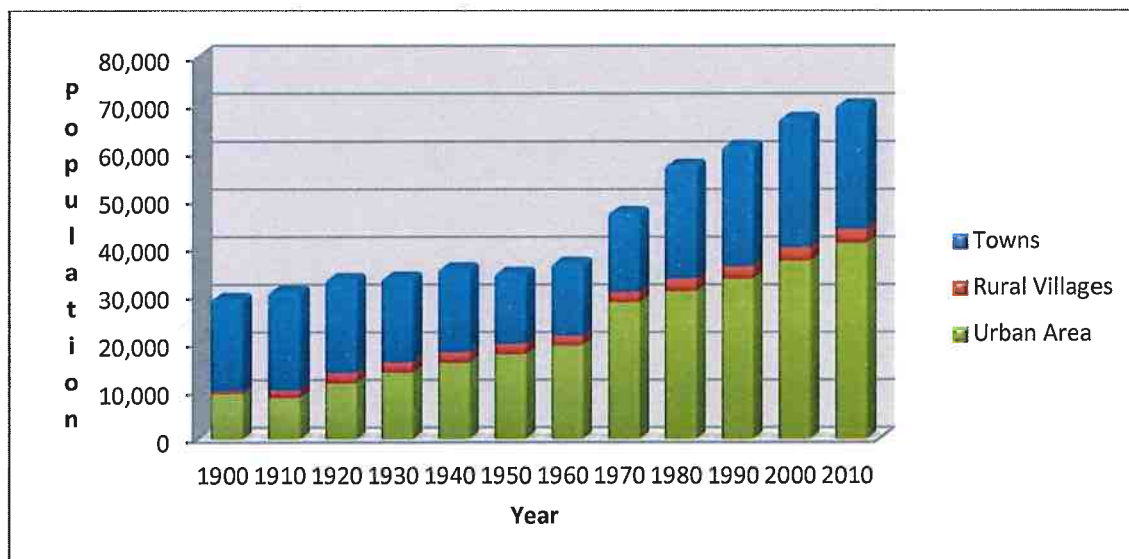
Every 10 years the Federal government performs the national Census, and these Census results are the main source of information used to understand how communities change over time. Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1 show how Portage County's population changed throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, both in total number and how it was distributed between the urban and rural areas.

Table 1.1: Portage County Population Change, 1900 to 2010

	U.S. Census Year											
	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Towns	19,401	20,754	19,668	17,654	17,543	14,872	15,264	16,665	23,792	25,142	26,986	26,004
Rural Villages	558	1,499	2,194	2,224	2,268	2,254	2,166	2,180	2,645	2,701	2,877	2,960
Rural Area	19,959	22,253	21,862	19,878	19,811	17,126	17,430	18,845	26,437	27,843	29,863	28,964
Urban Area	9,524	8,692	11,687	13,949	15,987	17,732	19,534	28,696	30,973	33,562	37,319	41,055
Portage County	29,483	30,945	33,549	33,827	35,798	34,858	36,964	47,541	57,410	61,405	67,182	70,019

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Urban Area = Stevens Point, Villages of Plover, Whiting, Park Ridge

Figure 1.1: Portage County Population Distribution, 1900 to 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Census data reveal two major, historical population trends for Portage County. First, there was an overall increase in the total population during each of the census periods, with the largest growth (28.6%) occurring between 1960 and 1970. Second, there were more people living in the rural area than in the urban area during the first half of the 20th Century. This switched beginning around 1950, with more people living in the urban center of the County than in the rural area. Again, the growth of the central urban area outpaces the growth in the rural area.

Population Estimates

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) annually produces population estimates for the years between the decennial census periods. These estimates are based on the prior census and analysis of contemporary data, and they are the best source of information for current population totals. According to Table 1.2, the DOA estimates a 2018 population of 71,038 for Portage County. This represents a population growth of 1,019 people, or 1.46%, in the eight years since the 2010 Census.

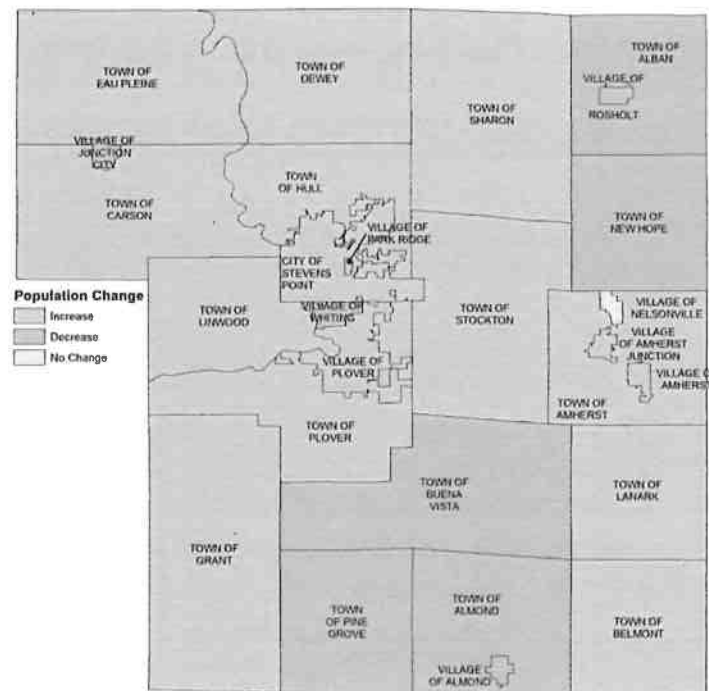
Table 1.2: Portage County Population Estimates, 2011 to 2018

	2011 Estimate	2012 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate	2016 Estimate	2017 Estimate	2018 Estimate	2010- 2018 Change
Towns	26,092	26,141	26,165	26,208	26,250	26,246	26,212	26,349	1.33%
Rural Villages	2,966	2,965	2,962	2,958	2,956	2,959	2,952	2,946	-0.47%
Rural Area	29,058	29,106	29,127	29,166	29,206	29,205	29,164	29,295	1.14%
Urban Area	41,312	41,700	41,776	41,716	41,734	41,678	41,597	41,743	1.68%
Portage County	70,370	70,806	70,903	70,882	70,940	70,883	70,761	71,038	1.46%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The following map illustrates which areas of the County gained or lost population since the 2010 Census. Only 5 of the 17 Towns and 4 of 9 Villages experienced a decrease in population. The Village of Nelsonville did not experience any change between 2010 and 2018.

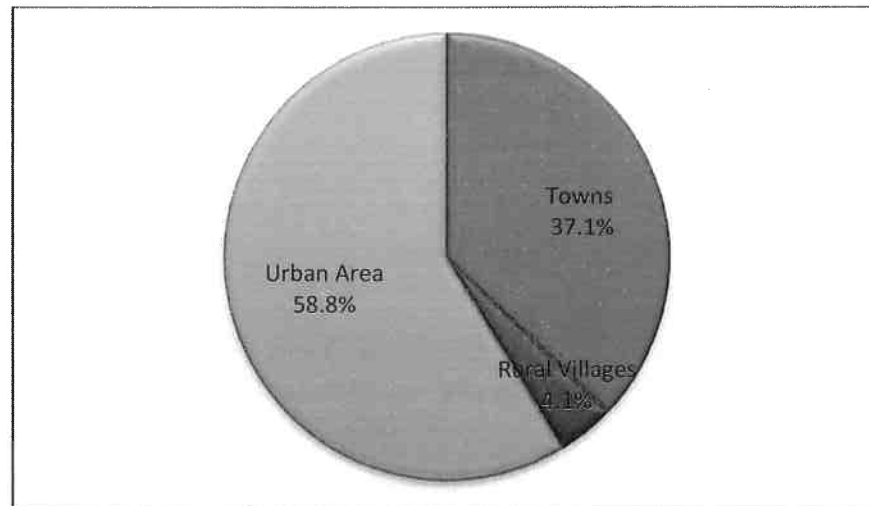
Figure 1.2: Population Change 2010 to 2018 for Portage County Municipalities



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

Figure 1.3 further shows how the population is currently distributed among the various units of government in Portage County. The majority of the County's population (58.8%) continues to be concentrated in the County's incorporated "urban area" (City of Stevens Point, Villages of Plover, Whiting and Park Ridge). This percentage increases when the more densely developed portions of the adjacent Towns of Hull, Plover and Linwood are included. Another 4.1% of the total population resides in the County's six outlying rural villages, a percentage which has only slightly decreased since 2010. Approximately 37.1% of the County's population resides in its 17 towns. This rural residential population generally represents very low-density development, primarily scattered along the highways and roads throughout the County. However, a limited number of higher density, rural subdivisions do exist.

Figure 1.3: Portage County Population Distribution, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Projections

Population projections developed by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) suggest that Portage County will experience slow growth through the year 2040, with a projected increase of 3,200 residents from 2010 to 2040, or a growth rate of 8.63% (0.28% per year).

Yr 2020: 73,665 Yr 2030: 76,165 Yr 2040: 76,865

It is anticipated that, similar to past experience, the majority of population growth is expected to occur within the Urban Area. This emphasizes the need for cooperation and coordination between Portage County, the City of Stevens Point, and the other urban area units of government in preparing to meet the recreational demands of this concentrated, growth area. This could include joint participation in the development of new park facilities on the urban fringe.

Population Composition

The breakdown of the County's population by age composition in Table 1.3 reveals a disproportionately high percentage in the 15-24 year age group in the "Portage County" columns over the different Census periods; this reflects the impact of the nearly 7,000+ students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point campus. The "Baby Boom" generation, the name given to those persons born from January 1, 1946 through the end of 1964, is also identified by the gray boxes moving diagonally across the three Census years.

Table 1.3: Portage County Historical Population Composition

Age	Towns			Villages			Portage County		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Under 5 years	1,994 7.9%	1,612 6.0%	1,372 5.3%	217 8.0%	216 7.5%	230 7.8%	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%	3,891 5.6%
5 to 14 years	4,589 18.2%	4,296 15.9%	3,380 13.0%	465 17.3%	475 16.5%	471 15.9%	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%	8,095 11.6%
15 to 24 years	3,385 13.4%	3,373 12.5%	2,944 11.3%	342 12.7%	411 14.3%	342 11.6%	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%	14,038 20.1%
25 to 34 years	4,067 16.2%	3,098 11.5%	2,401 9.2%	405 15.0%	409 14.2%	423 14.3%	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%	8,431 12.0%
35 to 44 years	4,201 16.7%	4,917 18.2%	3,459 13.3%	393 14.6%	443 15.4%	424 14.3%	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%	7,991 11.4%
45 to 54 years	2,691 10.7%	4,407 16.3%	4,978 19.1%	247 9.1%	343 11.9%	379 12.8%	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%	10,180 14.6%
55 to 64 years	1,939 7.7%	2,541 9.5%	4,068 15.7%	172 6.4%	225 7.6%	323 10.9%	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%	8,438 12.0%
65 to 74 years	1,457 5.8%	1,616 6.0%	2,120 8.2%	238 8.8%	142 4.9%	207 7.0%	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%	4,723 6.8%
75 to 84 years	664 2.6%	874 3.2%	983 3.8%	176 6.5%	151 5.2%	97 3.3%	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%	2,846 4.1%
85 years +	151 0.6%	252 0.9%	299 1.1%	46 1.7%	67 2.3%	64 2.2%	720 1.2%	998 1.5%	1,386 2.0%
Total Population	25,138	26,986	26,004	2,701	2,877	2,960	61,405	67,182	70,019
Median Age	32.2	37.8	44.0	34.7	36.2	36.0	29.3	33.0	35.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000, 2010

The Wisconsin DOA prepares Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Age. Table 1.4 below details these projections for Portage County through 2040, along with the historical data from Table 1.3. This information can help in understanding future recreation needs. As people remain active longer into their lives, Baby Boomers will continue to be an important piece of the recreation puzzle. Consideration should be given to further study of the impact of an active aging population on the long-term recreation needs of the County. Such study would logically be part of a long-range outdoor recreation planning process.

Table 1.4: Portage County Population Composition Projections

Age	U.S. Census			WisDOA Projections		
	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
Under 5 years	4,266 6.9%	3,964 5.9%	3,891 5.6%	4,110 7%	4,230 5.6%	4,460 5.8%
5 to 14 years	9,080 14.8%	9,118 13.6%	8,095 11.6%	8,620 15%	8,970 11.8%	9,120 11.9%
15 to 24 years	13,081 21.3%	13,983 20.8%	14,038 20.1%	13,920 21%	14,530 19.1%	14,270 18.6%
25 to 34 years	9,897 16.1%	8,322 12.4%	8,431 12.0%	8,440 16%	8,380 11.0%	8,620 11.2%
35 to 44 years	8,690 14.2%	10,261 15.3%	7,991 11.4%	7,700 14%	7,600 10.0%	7,500 9.8%
45 to 54 years	5,489 8.9%	8,945 13.3%	10,180 14.6%	8,000 9%	7,620 10.0%	7,500 9.8%
55 to 64 years	4,299 7.0%	5,235 7.8%	8,438 12.0%	9,860 7%	7,640 10.0%	7,330 9.5%
65 to 74 years	3,610 5.9%	3,791 5.6%	4,723 6.8%	7,740 6%	8,980 11.8%	7,100 9.2%
75 to 84 years	2,273 3.7%	2,565 3.8%	2,846 4.1%	3,720 4%	6,090 8.0%	7,290 9.5%
85 years +	720 1.2%	998 1.5%	1,386 2.0%	1,570 1%	2,135 2.8%	3,675 4.8%
Total Population	61,405	67,182	70,019	73,680	76,175	76,865

Source: U.S. Census data for 1990, 2000, and 2010. Projections by Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration, January 2013.

LAND USE SUMMARY

Table 1.5 summarizes land use in Portage County as of 2019. This summary is based on information contained in the adopted Portage County Comprehensive Plan.

Table 1.5: Portage County Land Use, 2019

Existing Land Use	Acres	% of Total Acreage
Residential	19,841	3.8%
Agricultural	199,940	38.0%
Commercial	1,294	0.2%
Industrial	1,288	0.2%
Governmental/Institutional	1,036	0.2%
Parks/Recreation/Natural Areas*	51,253	9.7%
Non-Metallic Mineral Extraction	1,206	0.2%
Right-of-Way (road and rail)	15,395	2.9%
Vacant / Undeveloped	210,454	39.9%
Rural Town Acreage	501,747	95.2%
Rural Village Acreage	4,644	0.9%
Urban Area Acreage	20,414	3.9%
Total County Acreage (Approximate)	526,805	100.0%

Source: Portage County Planning and Zoning Department * Includes Water (streams, rivers, impoundments, etc.).

Urban Area = Villages of Park Ridge, Plover, Whiting, City of Stevens Point

CLIMATE DATA

The warmest month is July, with an average high temperature of 79.8°; the coldest is January with an average high of 24.2°. Each year, an average of 32.63 inches of rain falls in Portage County; the month with the most rainfall is June, with an average of 4.38 inches, while the month with the least amount of rain is February, with 1.02 inches on average. The average annual snowfall in Portage County is 44.7 inches, with the most snow falling in the month of December.

Table 1.6: Portage County Climate Data

	Month												Annual
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Average High Temp (F°)	24.2	28.6	39.7	54.9	66.6	75.6	79.8	77.8	69.5	56.5	41.5	27.8	53.7
Average Low Temp (F°)	6.7	9.6	20.8	33.8	44.9	55.2	59.7	57.8	48.7	36.8	25.1	11.7	34.4
Average Precipitation (inches)	1.05	1.02	1.72	2.94	3.78	4.38	3.92	3.91	3.80	2.57	2.13	1.41	32.63
Average Snowfall (inches)	11.7	9.4	7.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.3	12.9	44.7
Growing Degree Days	0	1	21	119	284	475	606	554	337	132	24	1	2,554

Source: National Climatic Data Center, 1981-2010 Climate Normals for Weather Station #478171, Stevens Point WI

GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The land surface of Portage County was formed largely by glacial activity. This and other complex geomorphologic processes have acted together to create a variety of contrasting landforms. The glacial topography varies from the rolling, terminal or end moraines oriented north to south in the eastern third of the County, to flat sand outwash plain in the southwest portion. Elevation ranges from 1,320 feet above sea level in the Town of Almond to 920 feet above sea level along the southeast border of the County.

Natural Landscape

For study purposes, the County was divided into four distinct landscape or ecosystem types, as described below. Each area has a unique character that distinguishes it from the others in terms of geology, topography, soils and so on. Each area also possesses different land use limitations and potentials. Surface and groundwater resources are discussed separately, because of their overall impact on the land and its present and future uses.

1. Moraine and Lake Landscape

The eastern one-third of the County underwent significant glaciation and is characterized by a series of north-south ridges or moraines, and numerous “pothole” lakes. Large areas of glacial till and outwash were deposited between the moraines.

The wooded, moraine topography has attracted some non-farm residential development. Certain lakes have also attracted recreational and year-round home development. The lakeshore areas typically have severe limitations for septic systems and are poorly suited to high density development. Care must be taken not to exceed the carrying capacity of these small lakes.

2. Sandplain Landscape

Lying immediately west of the moraine and lake landscape, and in striking contrast, is the sandplain. Known locally as the “golden sands”, this largely flat area extends throughout the central and southwestern parts of the County. The sandplain is composed of deep layers of sand and gravel, which were deposited by glacial meltwaters. This porous layer provides a valuable groundwater aquifer. The abundant supply of groundwater, together with advances in irrigation technology, has allowed the draughty soils to be converted to vegetable, cash-crop production.

A total of 12,700 acres of prairie chicken habitat are contained in the Buena Vista Wildlife Area, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Approximately 4,500 acres of the land is owned by the Dane County Conservation League and 60 acres by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO). The remaining acreage is owned by the DNR. The prairie chicken is a threatened Wisconsin species, which survives in significant numbers in only a few areas in the central part of the State. Management of these lands consists primarily of maintaining the grassland habitat.

The sand plain region as a whole presents limitations for residential development due to the high water table, the proximity to intensive agricultural activity, and the threat of groundwater contamination. The area is also lacking in certain natural recreational amenities, such as forests, lakes, and streams, which are abundant throughout the rest of the County.

3. River and Marsh Landscape

The northwestern part of the County is characterized by its gently rolling topography, shallow soils, high water table and crystalline bedrock at or near the surface. The granite-like aquifer yields only limited amounts of water for wells. While groundwater volumes are small, volumes of surface runoff are large. The area is typified by numerous wetlands and large marshes, such as the Dewey Marsh and the Mead Wildlife Area. The Wisconsin River flowage north of Stevens Point and the Lake DuBay impoundment of the County's northern border are two other notable features of this region. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources owns and manages 2,995 acres of prairie chicken lands in the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area in central Wisconsin. Nearly 1,600 acres of the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area are located in the Town of Carson within Portage County, while the other 1,397 acres are in adjacent Wood County.

4. Floodplain and Wetland Landscape

Floodplains serve as natural water storage areas during high water periods and occur as corridors along streams and rivers. They are also habitat heavily used by terrestrial and aquatic organisms. The largest floodplain zones are associated with the Wisconsin River and areas west, particularly in the Towns of Carson and Linwood.

Wetlands are depression areas that are covered by shallow water or are subject to intermittent flooding and slow drainage. Based on wetland mapping completed by the Department of Natural Resources, there are approximately 99,145 acres of wetlands, which constitutes about 19% of the land area in the County in 2019. The largest concentrations are located in the northern and western townships, particularly in association with the Mead Wildlife Area and the Dewey and Buena Vista Marshes. Floodplains and wetlands tend to occur in association along streams and lakes and are generally forested in this situation. Wetlands in the southern part of the County support forest, grassland and scrub vegetation types. Floodplains and wetlands are of exceptional value for wildlife habitat and light recreational use.

Surface Water

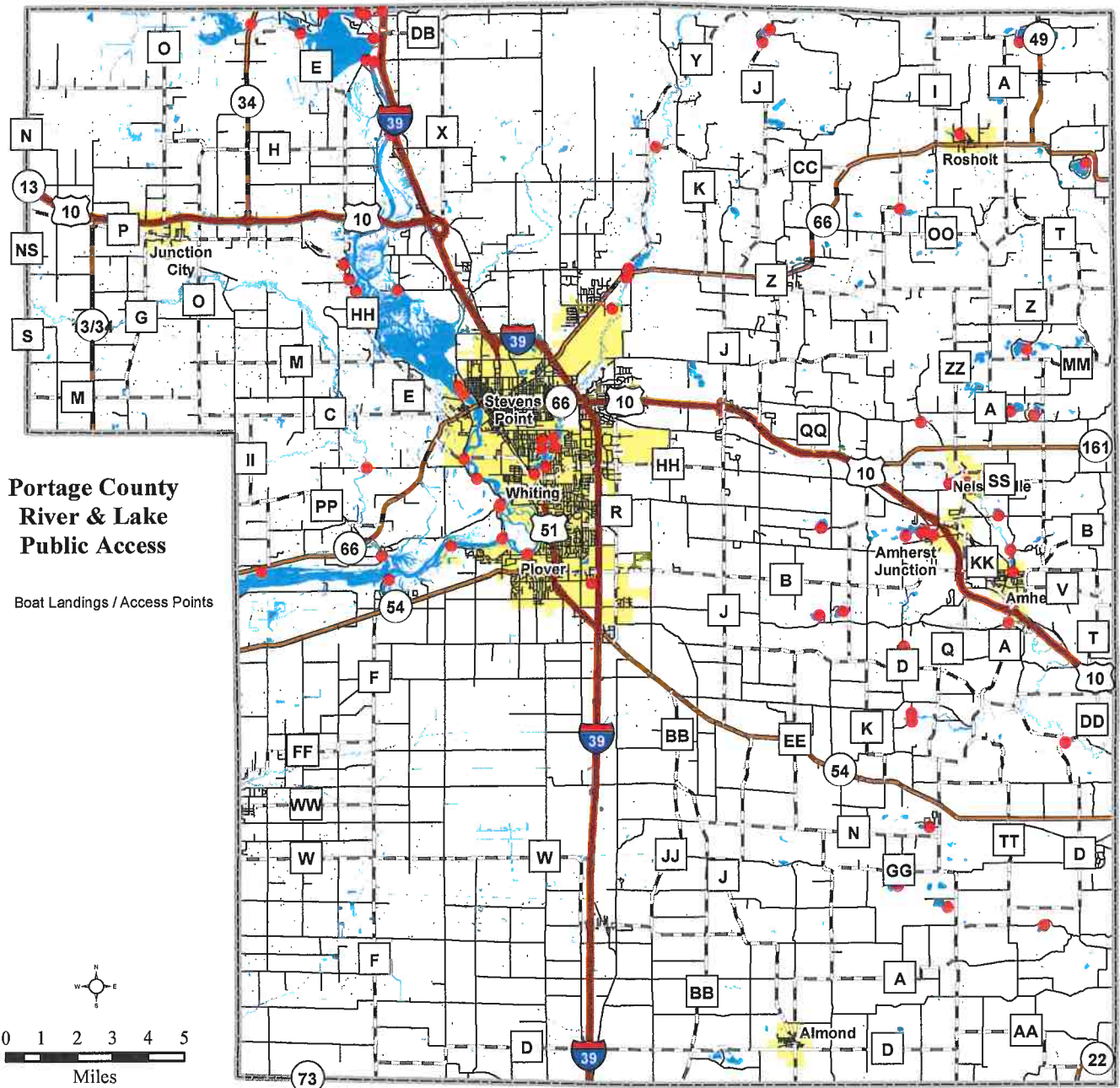
According to the 2001 Portage County Comprehensive Planning Survey, residents support the protection of the lakes and rivers in the County. Recreation depends heavily on the County's surface water resources. The Wisconsin River, while utilized extensively for hydro-electric power generation, is also used extensively for fishing and recreational boating. Smaller streams and lakes throughout the County provide tremendous recreational opportunities for both public and private use. There are 77 public access points for Portage County lakes and rivers.

Portage County River & Lake Public Access

● Boat Landings / Access Points



0 1 2 3 4 5
Miles



Portage County is divided between the Wisconsin River drainage basin on the western half and the Wolf River basin (Tomorrow and Little Wolf Rivers) on the east. This surface water divide is also a continental divide, as the Wisconsin River flows to the Gulf of Mexico and the Wolf River flows to Lake Michigan, and eventually the Atlantic Ocean. The bulk of the water that flows to these streams comes from seepage of groundwater along the stream channels, but some of the water comes from surface runoff during and after storms. No single boundary, such as a topographic divide, identifies that area or basin which contributes to the Wisconsin, Waupaca or Little Wolf Rivers. Instead, the topographic divide limits the areas contributing surface runoff to the streams, whereas the groundwater divides limits the areas contributing subsurface groundwater. The groundwater divide between the Wisconsin and Waupaca Rivers' basin follows the general trend of the outer moraine, whereas the topographic divide approximates the trend of the second moraine, lying further east.

Most of the rivers and lakes in the County receive a significant amount of water from groundwater; especially winter base flow when soils are frozen. Therefore, contaminated groundwater can impact the surface water quality and biota. Additionally, significant groundwater water withdrawal from pumping can impact the amount of water in lakes and rivers. Parts of the Little Plover River dried out during the summers 2005 through 2009. Historically this has never been observed and is due to low groundwater levels, Pickerel and Wolf Lakes have experienced fish kills and beach closures for similar reasons. The number of high capacity wells in Portage County has increased from 60 in 1960 to approximately 1,000 today.

Based on an inventory of water resources by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), there are 85 lakes and 64 streams in the County, totaling approximately 6,600 acres. The length of the largest watercourse (Wisconsin River) is 19 miles, much of which is impounded within the County. The Wisconsin River Flowage No. 3 near Stevens Point is the largest single body of water in the County covering 2,093 acres.

1. Streams (Table 1.7)

There are about 430 miles of streams that convey over 3,000 cubic feet of water per second through the County. The largest flow of surface water which passes through Portage County is the Wisconsin River. Streams contain 25.5% of all surface water in the County. There are 40 named streams and 24 unnamed streams.

The Wisconsin River is a major waterway for Portage County and throughout the State of Wisconsin. In total, the Wisconsin River is 430 miles long with a 12,000 square mile drainage area and a vertical drop of 1,050 feet. The river runs either through or along the borders of the Portage County Towns of Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Hull, Plover, Linwood, Village of Plover, and the City of Stevens Point, covering 25.5 miles in Portage County.

The Plover River runs through or along the border of the Portage County Towns of Sharon, Dewey, Hull, the Village of Whiting, and City of Stevens Point. In total, it is 16.98 miles long and averages 53 feet in width.

The Tomorrow River runs through or along the border of the Portage County Towns of Sharon, Stockton, New Hope, Amherst, Lanark, and the Villages of Nelsonville and Amherst. In total, it is 30.89 miles long and averages 33 feet in width.

Mill Creek runs through the Portage County Towns of Carson and Linwood, and flows into the Wisconsin River between the Towns of Linwood and Plover. In total, the creek is 21.92 miles long and averages 68 feet in width.

Table 1.7: Portage County Stream Inventory

Named Streams	Area (Acres)	Length (Miles)	Width (Feet)	Flow (CFS)
Allen	1.0	2.1	4.0	0.7
Bear	10.2	5.2	16.0	-
Bear (Leary)	11.5	8.0	12.0	12.9
Bradley	8.3	5.9	12.0	3.8
Buena Vista	27.5	20.4	11.0	19.8
Buena Vista Ditches	120.3	75.3	13.0	40.6
Carden Feeder	0.6	1.6	3.0	0.5
Duck	7.6	5.2	12.0	7.0
Eau Claire, Little	7.3	3.6	17.0	13.2
Eau Pleine, Little	42.2	3.5	100.0	-
Emmons	7.5	3.9	16.0	17.0
Flume	33.9	15.6	18.0	24.3
Four Mile	45.3	15.0	25.0	20.8
Hay Meadow	25.0	14.0	15.0	-
Hayden	0.8	2.2	3.0	1.0
Klondike	2.8	3.3	7.0	2.5
Lost	4.5	4.9	8.0	5.7
Mack	1.3	2.2	5.0	-
Meade Wildlife Area Ditches	17.9	21.8	7.0	0.8
Mill	197.5	21.9	68.0	-
Murry	3.3	3.9	7.0	4.4
Nace	0.6	2.6	2.0	1.2
Pearl	2.8	4.7	5.0	1.1
Plover	108.8	17.0	53.0	96.0
Plover, Little	12.2	6.9	15.0	-
Poncho (Mitcheltree)	4.7	4.9	8.0	7.7
Rainy	0.6	1.8	3.0	1.5
Rocky Run	46.7	9.6	40.0	1.5
Sannes	0.5	1.3	3.0	0.6
Spring	14.4	3.5	20.0	21.8
Spring, Upper	0.5	1.3	3.0	1.4
Stedman	2.1	2.2	8.0	4.0
Stoltenburg	1.9	3.1	5.0	1.9
Ten Mile	35.8	14.7	20.0	13.2
Ten Mile, North Branch	25.6	12.6	17.0	-
Ten Mile, South Branch	2.1	8.3	2.0	-
Ten Mile Creek Ditches	105.6	48.6	18.0	13.2
Tomorrow	123.7	30.9	33.0	138.3
Wisconsin River	689.3	19.0	300.0	-
Wolf, Little, North Branch	8.0	3.1	21.0	17.8

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2. Lakes

Most of the naturally occurring lakes are small and are located in the eastern part of the County in pitted outwash and glacial drift. Many lakes are small, without a surface inlet or outlet and because their surfaces coincide with the water table, they may have widely fluctuating stages. These lakes include kettles (pothole lakes), oxbows, bayous, marsh potholes, excavations, and impoundments. Forty-one of the 85 lakes listed by the Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) are less than 30 acres. Lake Emily is the largest of the natural lakes (105 acres). Fifteen of the 85 lakes are impoundments of rivers, and there are a number of farm ponds that have been developed over the years.

Wisconsin River Flowage No. 3, an impoundment on the Wisconsin River from Stevens Point north, is the largest single body of water in the County. Covering 2,093 acres, it represents 43% of the total lake surface area. Lakes 50 acres and less account for 90.3% of the total number of lakes, but only 33.4% of the surface area.

The majority of the lakes in the County are shallow, i.e. 50% are less than 10 feet deep. Adams Lake is 51 feet, Budsberg Lake at 58 feet, Collins Lake at 56 feet and Sunset Lake at 55 feet are the deepest lakes in the County. Table 1.8 represents an inventory of Portage County lakes, including summary data by size and depth classes:

Table 1.8: Portage County Lake Inventory

Named Lakes	Township	Area	Length	Width	Maximum
Adams	Stockton	30.40	0.31	0.23	51.00
Amherst Millpond	Amherst	24.90	0.85	0.14	5.00
Anderson	Eau Pleine	12.10	0.69	0.13	6.00
Bass (Claudes)	Almond	55.00	0.56	0.25	16.00
Bear	Stockton	33.60	0.43	0.18	36.00
Becker	Sharon	31.50	0.35	0.18	4.00
Bingo	Lanark	5.90	0.21	0.10	16.00
Boelter (Marshfield)	Lanark	14.40	0.34	0.13	5.00
Budsberg (Severson)	New Hope	25.20	0.30	0.24	58.00
Clar-Re	Plover	17.00	0.10	0.06	15.00
Collins (Fish)	Alban	49.40	0.59	0.19	56.00
Dana Pond (Bentley)	Sharon	85.90	0.65	0.30	10.00
Deans	Belmont	6.40	0.14	0.09	23.00
Ebert	Amherst	11.60	0.23	0.13	29.00
Ell	Amherst	27.60	0.33	0.22	15.00
Emily	Amherst	104.60	1.09	0.27	36.00
Fountain	Belmont	15.40	0.28	0.12	23.00
Glisezinski (Jacqueline)	Sharon	39.70	0.44	0.21	17.00
Goin (Cow)	Alban	19.80	0.28	0.16	7.00
Helen	Alban	78.40	0.53	0.41	18.00
Hintz	New Hope	51.40	0.46	0.31	5.00
Jim	Lanark	4.40	0.11	0.08	15.00
Johnson	New Hope	3.70	0.13	0.08	7.00
Jordan Pond	Hull	83.00	0.91	0.26	10.00
Julia (Ward's)	Amherst	13.90	0.27	0.13	4.00
Kranski	Sharon	17.10	0.29	0.14	33.00
Lime	Amherst	44.50	0.35	0.28	31.00
Lions	Alban	38.60	0.49	0.21	10.00

Named Lakes	Township	Area	Length	Width	Maximum
Lutz (Peters)	Lanark	11.20	0.18	0.13	23.00
McDill Pond	Plover	261.00	1.50	0.50	15.00
Meyers	Amherst	17.70	0.24	0.21	11.00
Minister (Preacher)	New Hope	15.60	0.23	0.14	9.00
Mud	Amherst	5.20	0.15	0.08	22.00
Mud	Amherst	3.90	0.15	0.05	17.00
Mud	Amherst	14.90	0.28	0.14	7.00
Mud	Alban	10.80	0.19	0.18	12.00
Mud	Alban	22.30	0.37	0.26	4.00
Mudhole	Sharon	2.80	0.41	0.23	3.00
Oesterle	Sharon	30.80	0.40	0.21	4.00
Onland	New Hope	46.90	0.38	0.26	25.00
Ostrowski	Amherst	5.40	0.15	0.08	11.00
Pallen	Sharon	12.60	0.20	0.14	10.00
Penny	Alban	10.80	0.16	0.15	22.00
Pickerel	Belmont	39.80	0.44	0.22	16.00
Pine	Belmont	21.50	0.26	0.19	10.00
Pleasant	Belmont	16.80	0.23	0.14	8.00
Renton	New Hope	42.70	0.53	0.33	8.00
Riley (Rough)	Buena Vista	7.50	0.18	0.09	48.00
Rhinehart	New Hope	41.60	0.39	0.29	25.00
Rosholt Millpond	Alban	17.60	0.46	0.10	7.00
Silver	Buena Vista	6.50	0.23	0.07	16.00
Skunk	New Hope	27.80	0.39	0.21	20.00
Slough	Dewey	22.90	1.00	0.09	5.00
Spring	Lanark	36.50	0.71	0.23	42.00
Springville Pond	Plover	18.00	0.53	0.08	12.00
Stoltenburg	Amherst	15.30	0.24	0.23	32.00
Sunset	New Hope	61.20	0.43	0.31	55.00
Susan	Hull	22.60	0.34	0.17	24.00
Thamar (Thomas)	Stockton	33.90	0.29	0.24	31.00
Thorn	Amherst	14.50	0.26	0.12	25.00
Tree (Three)	Alban	71.30	0.45	0.38	34.00
North Twin	Sharon	36.50	0.45	0.15	7.00
South Twin	Sharon	52.70	0.49	0.22	9.00
Van Order Pond	Hull	35.30	0.73	0.16	8.00
Virgin (Turtle)	Amherst	12.60	0.26	0.13	6.00
Windorf	Alban	8.20	0.18	0.09	5.00
Wisconsin River Flowage #1	Linwood	57.00	0.38	0.12	6.00
Wisconsin River Flowage #2	Linwood	22.00	2.58	0.18	25.00
Wisconsin River Flowage #3	Stevens Point/ Hull/Dewey/Eau Pleine/Carson	2,209	5.54	1.60	25.00
Wolf	Almond	22.00	0.30	0.18	17.00
Wolf, East	Almond	18.00	0.28	0.14	2.00

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

*located within Portage County and neighboring County of Marathon or Wood

3. Wisconsin River Flowages

The Wisconsin River, within the County, has four closely controlled flowages. One of these, Lake DuBay, is strictly for hydroelectric use and not associated with a paper mill. This flowage is formed by a Consolidated Paper Company dam, which is about one mile south of the Marathon County line. Most of this flowage is outside of the County, but its flood control potential benefits the County. However, this flowage is not considered large enough to completely control or accommodate a 100-year regional flood.

Table 1.9: Portage County Flowage Inventory

Flowage	Approximate Length	Approximate Area
Biron Flowage	27,984 feet	1,344 acres
Whiting Plover Mill Pond	3,000 feet	57 acres
Consolidated Mill, WI River Division Pool	2,58 miles	220 acres
Consolidated Mill, Stevens Point Division	28,200 feet	2,093 acres
DuBay Flowage	9,000 feet	1,696 acres
Little Eau Pleine	7,000 feet	300 acres
Lower Plover River, Whiting-Plover Mill	5,000 feet	52 acres

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

4. Mill Ponds

There are a number of mill ponds throughout the County. The largest and one of the most scenic is McDill Pond (262 acres) on the lower Plover River in the City of Stevens Point. These mill ponds were originally created as a source of water power for local grain and timber mills, but no longer function in that capacity. These ponds are generally shallow and suffer from eutrophication. The dam at Jordan Pond is currently operating as a hydro-electric power generating facility.

Table 1.10: Portage County Mill Pond Inventory

Name	Acres	River	Original Use
Jordan Pond	83	Plover	Lumber Mill
McDill Pond	262	Plover	Mill
Van Order Pond	53	Plover	Mill
Rosholt Pond	14	Flume Creek	Mill
Amherst Pond	46	Tomorrow	Mill
Springville Pond	16.5	Little Plover	Mill
TOTAL	474.5		

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Groundwater

Groundwater conditions are far from uniform throughout the County and can be distinguished in terms of three distinct regions.

1. River and Marsh Landscape – Border drift from early glaciers covers much of the bedrock in the northwestern portion of the County, to an average depth of four feet. This shallow drift layer contains the water supply for this part of the County.

2. Moraine and Lake Landscape – Glacial drift in the form of moraines or ridges cover the eastern one-half of the County. Private wells in this area are commonly 25 to 100 feet deep and typically yield 10 to 50 gpm. High capacity wells of 100-200 feet are not uncommon, in the moraine area, and they commonly yield 500 gpm or more.
3. Sandplain Landscape – The most important sources of groundwater in the County are thick and extensive deposits of well-sorted sand and gravel, which form gently sloping outwash plains and terraces. High capacity wells in this area commonly yield 1,000 gpm and are usually drilled down to the bedrock at depths of 50 to 200 feet. Saturated thickness of the aquifer materials is 50 to 150 feet, sunk to an average depth of 60 feet. The chemical quality of the water is generally satisfactory, although the iron content may be objectionable locally, and corrosivity caused by low ph can be a problem. Elevated nitrate levels are a problem in some areas.

SECTION 3

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION IN PORTAGE COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

This section will provide an overview of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Portage County. Several Towns and rural Villages are also included in separate Sections of this document. A County wide count of parks includes 1 State park, 28 County Parks, 78 Urban Area parks, 37 Town parks, 32 Village parks, and 77 public access points for Portage County lakes and rivers. This Plan will deal primarily with Portage County-owned areas or facilities.

PORTAGE COUNTY PARKS INVENTORY

The Portage County Parks Department currently manages 29 areas totaling over 2,600 acres for outdoor recreation and natural resources management (Table 1.11). Brief descriptions of each follow. Table 1.12 summarizes the types of park facilities and recreational opportunities available through the Portage County Parks Department.

Table 1.11: Portage County Parks / Recreation Areas

Park Name	Town	Assessed Acreage
Al Tech Park	Linwood	2.9
Becker Lake Recreation Area	Sharon	40
Carrie Frost Park	Almond	7
Cate Park	Amherst	8.7
Collins Park	Alban	53.08
Consolidated Park	Linwood	23
Dewey Marsh Recreation Area & Shooting Range	Dewey	319.5
DuBay Park	Eau Pleine	84.06
Galecke Park	Plover	33.2
Jordan Park	Hull	404.64
Lake Emily Park	Amherst	177.7
Lake Helen Park	Alban	10.6
Lake Jacqueline Preserve	Sharon	23.19
Lake Meyers	Amherst	0.52
Mill Creek Preserve	Carson	122.25
Peterson Park	Alban	9
Plover River Wayside	Sharon	0.3
Portage County Cemetery	Amherst	1
Rinehart Lake	New Hope	1.5
Rocky Run Preserve	Linwood	83.66
Standing Rocks Park	Stockton	555.1
Stedman Park	Lanark	2.85
Steinhaugen	Sharon	280
Sunset Lake Park	New Hope	36.2
Tomorrow River State Trail	Plover, Stockton, Amherst (14 miles)	180
Tomorrow River Wayside	New Hope	3.07
Wisconsin River Recreation Area	Dewey	89.2
Wolf Lake Park	Almond	112.77
Green Circle Trail (not included in acreage total)	Urban Area	27 + Miles
Total Acreage		2,664.99

Source: Portage County Parks Department

Table 1.12: Portage County Facilities / Recreational Opportunities Areas

Beaches	8
Picnic Areas	15
Boat launching sites	12
Enclosed shelters	7 (rentals)
Open shelters	5
Downhill skiing	Rentals available
Cross Country ski trails	16 miles
Snowmobile trails	292 miles
Nature Center	Jordan Park
Self-guided nature trail	Jordan Park
Camping areas	4
Archery range	Standing Rocks Park
Shooting range	Dewey Marsh
Fishing, power boating, sail boating, water skiing	Various Parks
Fitness trail	Jordan Park
Playgrounds	7 Parks
Softball Diamond	DuBay Park
Sandlot diamonds	2
Horseshoe pits	In 6 parks
Historical Sites	2
Public hunting	5 areas
Mountain biking	10 miles double track,
	13 miles single track
Recreation trail	14 miles
Dog exercise area	Standing Rocks Park
Horseback riding	14 miles
Dog sledding	17 miles
Disc golf course	33 holes
Volleyball courts	In 5 parks
Hydroelectric plant	Jordan Park

Source: Portage County Parks Department

Portage County-managed Land, Parks, and Trails are listed below in alphabetical order. Discussion of each area includes a description of the park/facility, along with an assessment of current/future needs.

Al Tech Park (County Parks Map #1):

This 2.9-acre park is located along the west bank of the Wisconsin River on West River Drive, one mile south of Stevens Point in the Town of Linwood.

- **Current Management Practices:** Managed as a canoe access/fishing area and picnic grounds.
- **Major Activities:** Picnicking, fishing.
- **Facilities:** Canoe access, picnic area, and stairs down to low head dam observation area.
- **Recent Facility Improvements:** A permanent cement bench was donated in 2006.
- **Problems/Deficiencies:** None identified at this time.
- **Future Goals:** None identified at this time.

Becker Lake Recreation Area (County Parks Map #2):

This 40-acre recreation area is located on Becker Lake in the Town of Sharon.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as natural area and public hunting grounds.
- Major Activities: Nature appreciation; UW-Stevens Point outdoor classes.
- Facilities: None.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: No facilities or improvements are planned for this area.

Carrie Frost Park (County Parks Map #3):

This 7-acre park is located on County Road BB in the Town of Almond, and serves the Almond/Bancroft area. A school forest is located adjacent.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a roadside rest area and picnic grounds.
- Major Activities: Picnicking.
- Facilities: Snowmobile shelter, and picnic area.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Little use.
- Future Goals: Discussions with the Almond/Bancroft School District have occurred regarding replacement of the pit toilet; provide open grill by open shelter.

Cate Park (County Parks Map #4):

This 8.7-acre park is located on County Road A in the Town of Amherst, ½ mile north of the Village of Amherst. This site is adjacent to the Amherst Mill Pond.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a picnic area and trailhead for the Tomorrow River State Trail.
- Major Activities: Picnicking, fishing.
- Facilities: Picnic area, parking lot, trailhead.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: Installation of a bathroom and well to service the Trail.

Collins Park (County Parks Map #5):

This 53.08-acre park is located on Collins Lake in the Town of Alban. This park has a large service area, with a 2006 park user profile of 35% from Portage County, 61% from Other Wisconsin Counties, and 4% from Out of State.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a campground, boat launching/fishing area, beach and picnic grounds.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping.
- Facilities: 28 campground pads, boat ramp, beach, electricity, lodge, shower building, flush toilet building, pit vault toilet, 2 wells, playgrounds, seasonal manager's residence, picnic area, storage garage, and trailer dump station.
- Recent Facility Improvements: New seasonal manager's residence, boundary fence constructed.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Overcrowding on some weekends; water quality deterioration, occasional algae blooms in summer.
- Future Goals: Acquire lands to alleviate existing overcrowding and accommodate anticipated future growth; support changes to agricultural practices to help prevent nutrients from entering Collins Lake; snow plowing the boat landing parking lot.





Becker Lake Recreational Area
Portage County, Wisconsin

 Parking/Primitive Access










Consolidated Park (County Parks Map #6):

This 23-acre park is located along the west bank of the Wisconsin River on West River Drive, 2 miles south of Stevens Point in the Town of Linwood.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boat launching/fishing area and picnic grounds.
- Major Activities: Pleasure driving, picnicking, fishing.
- Facilities: Boat ramp, pit vault toilet and picnic area.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: None identified at this time.

Dewey Marsh Recreational Area and Shooting Range (County Parks Map #7):

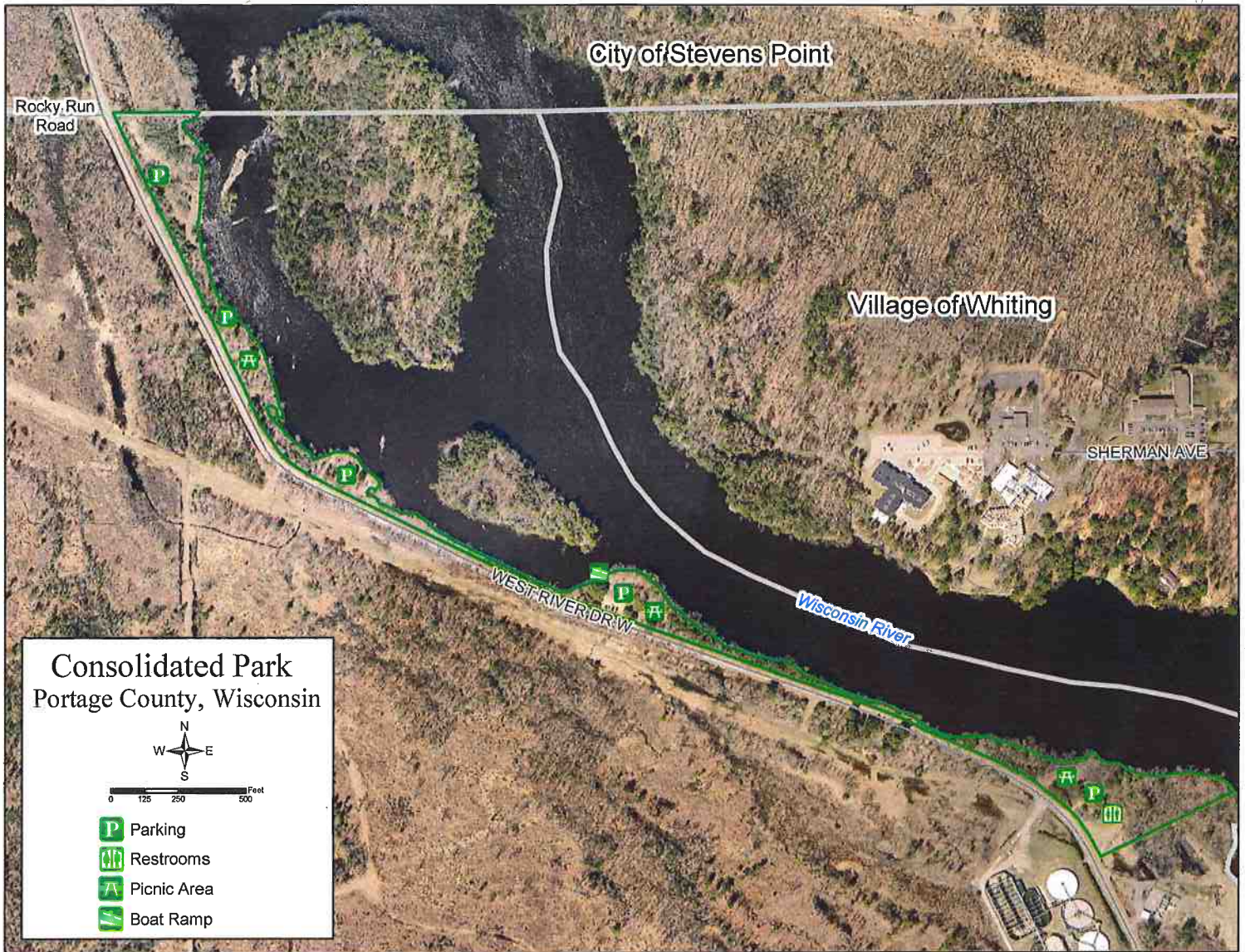
This 319.5-acre wildlife preserve is a portion of the larger Dewey Marsh Wildlife area (4,900 acres) owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources. This wildlife area is a forest/wetland area and represents a major public open space area of the County. Game species include whitetail deer, grouse, rabbit and others. Included within this area is the County's "Dewey Shooting Range", located on Willow Springs Drive in the Town of Dewey, five miles north of Stevens Point. This shooting range and recreation area serves Central Wisconsin.

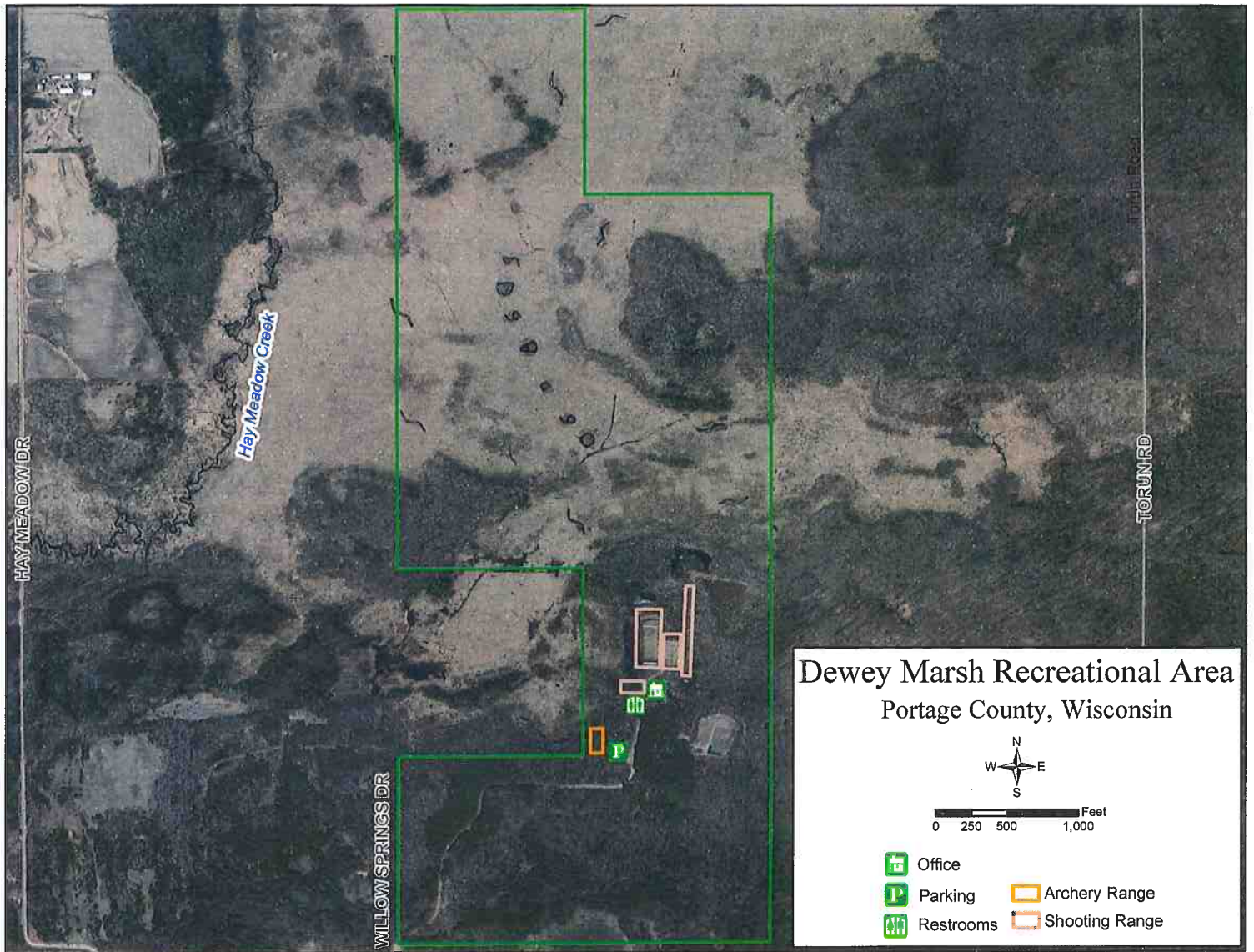
- Current Management Practices: Managed as a gun and archery shooting range & public hunting area.
- Major Activities: Hunting, gun and archery/target shooting, wildlife habitat.
- Facilities: Range office, pistol range, 50/100/200 yard ranges, archery range, and pit vault toilet.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Installed a new pistol range and lighting for night shooting.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Residential encroachment.
- Future Goals: Harvest per the forest management plan; further improve shooting range by adding a trap range.

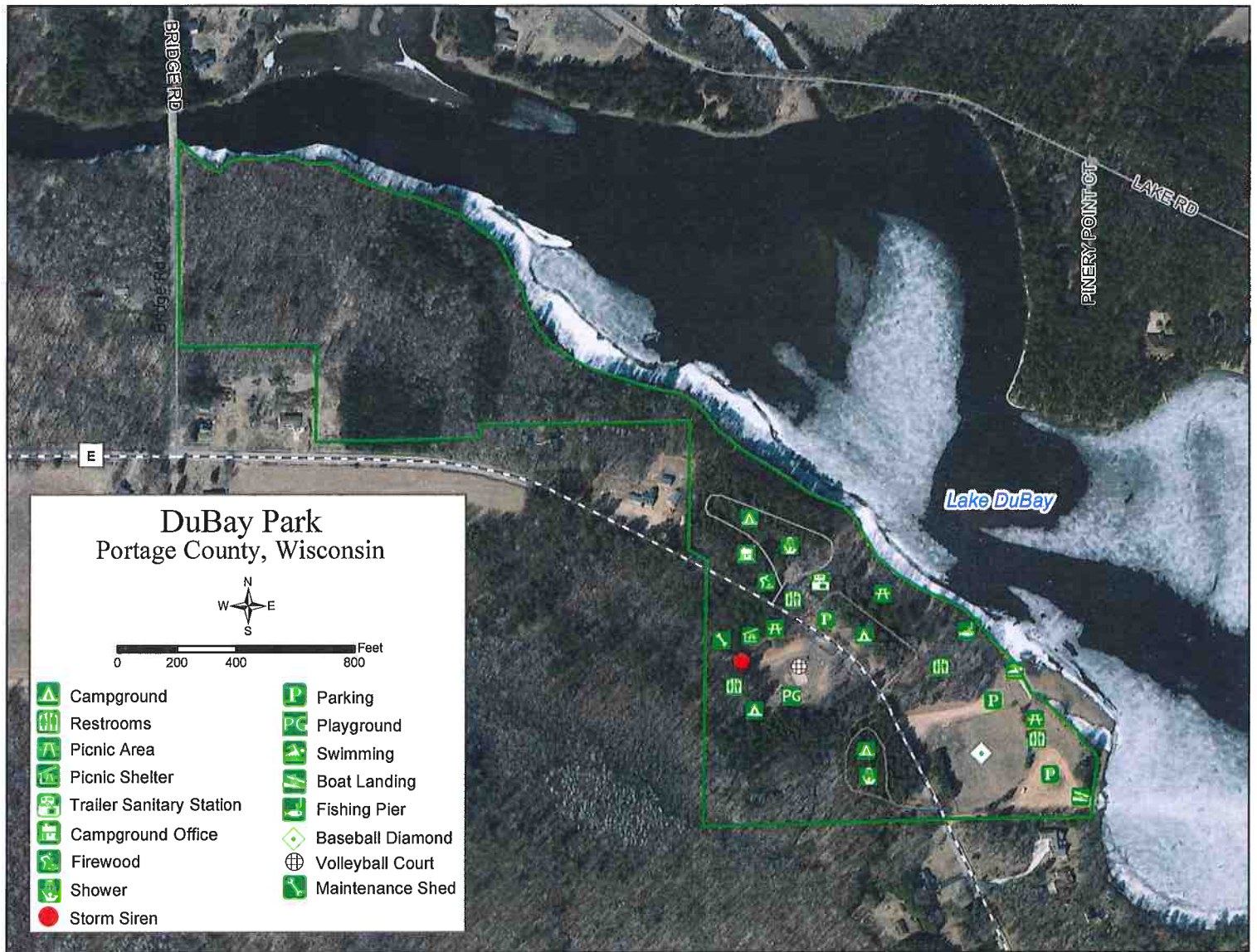
DuBay Park (County Parks Map #8):

This 84.06-acre park is located on 6,700-acre Lake DuBay, a flowage of the Wisconsin River. Lake DuBay is the largest body of water in the Central Wisconsin area. Most of the flowage lies within Marathon County. More than half of the park is undeveloped, natural area. This park has a large service area, with a 2006 park user profile of 25% from Portage County, 71 % from Other Wisconsin Counties, and 4% from Out of State.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a campground, boat launching/fishing area, beach and picnic grounds.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping, motor boating, sail boating, water skiing.
- Facilities: 36 campground pads, boat ramp, handicap fishing pier, beach, electricity, lodge, 4 sets of pit vault toilets, well, playground, seasonal manager's residence, picnic area, ball field, storage building and trailer dump station, 2 shower buildings.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Installed 5 new campsites and added Courtesy Dock at boat launch.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Water quality (poor, but improving), shore land erosion, overcrowding.
- Future Goals: Support the improvements of fishing, boating and water skiing opportunities on Lake DuBay. Replace pit toilet buildings by fishing pier. Pave boat launch parking lot.







Galecke Park (County Parks Map #9):

This 33.2-acre park is located on the east bank of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Plover, on River Road 1 ½ miles west of the Village of Plover.

- **Current Management Practices:** Managed as a boating/fishing area and picnic area.
- **Major Activities:** Picnicking, fishing, motor boating, water skiing.
- **Facilities:** Boat ramp, boat dock, open shelter, pit vault toilet, picnic area.
- **Recent Facility Improvements:** None.
- **Problems/Deficiencies:** Shoreline erosion, potential for vandalism due to isolated location.
- **Future Goals:** Replace pit toilet. Further develop to capitalize on potential of Biron Flowage as a water resource. Use boat launch fee fund to pave entrance road and parking lot and other maintenance issues.

Jordan Park (#10):

This 404.64-acre park is located on Jordan Pond, a flowage of the Plover River, at the intersection of STH 66 and County Road Y in the Town of Hull. The park lies on the edge of the Stevens Point urban area and is experiencing heavy use. Fifty acres of the park are maintained as natural area. This park has a large service area, with a 2006 park user profile of 31% from Portage County, 49 % from Other Wisconsin Counties, and 20% from out of state.

- **Current Management Practices:** Managed as a campground, boat launching/fishing area, beach, picnic area, nature center, nature trails, historic site, administrative office, workshop, and hydroelectric plant.
- **Major Activities:** Camping, swimming, picnicking, nature study.
- **Facilities:** 25 campsites, boat ramp, canoe access, beach, electricity, 2 lodges, 2 open shelters, shower building, 3 sets of pit vault toilets, 4 wells, 3 playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, hydroelectric plant, dam, 5 storage buildings, administrative office, maintenance facility, steel foot bridge, snowmobile bridge, and trailer dump station.
- **Recent Facility Improvements:** Installed flush toilets by east lodge. Finished new canoe campsite boardwalk.
- **Problems/Deficiencies:** None identified at this time.
- **Future Goals:** Expand the campground to the west and establish a buffer zone around the park to prevent development from encroaching upon use area. Capitalize upon the Plover River corridor connecting Jordan and Iverson Parks and recognize the potential for linear park uses such as bicycling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and hiking/nature study. Acquire lands in response to increased usage and adapt facilities to meet tastes of an urban user group. Replace old pit vault toilets and repair gates and concrete on the dam per inspection.

Lake Emily Park (County Parks Map #11):

This 177.7-acre park is located on Lake Emily in the Town of Amherst. Lake Emily is the location of historical Native American Burial Mounds. This park has a large service area, with a 2006 park user profile of 35% from Portage County, 60% from Other Wisconsin Counties, and 5% from Out of State.

- **Current Management Practices:** Managed as a campground, boat launching/fishing area, beach, picnic grounds, hiking area, and historical site.
- **Major Activities:** Swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping, motor boating.
- **Facilities:** 71 campground pads, three walk-in tent sites, boat ramp, beach/changing stalls, electricity, 2 lodges, 3 shower buildings, 4 pit vault toilets, 5 wells, 2 playgrounds, picnic area, trails, baseball field, Native American burial site, handicap fishing pier, office, storage

- garage/workshop, and two trailer dump stations.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Installed three new electric camping sites.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Boat landing difficult to use because of long backing requirements, picnic and camping sites crowded, water pollution.
- Future Goals: Control and improve water quality, provide new boat landing, update park pit toilets, improve access points to lake, and expand the campground to the west.

Lake Helen Park (County Parks Map #12):

This 10.6-acre park is located on Lake Helen in the Town of Alban. Lake Helen is the largest lake in northeastern Portage County; the park serves northeastern Portage County, and parts of Waupaca County.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boating/fishing area, beach, picnic area.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing, motor boating.
- Facilities: Boat ramp, beach, pit vault toilet, well, playground, picnic area, picnic shelter, volleyball court, horseshoe pit.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Surrounded by other uses.
- Future Goals: Capitalize on Lake Helen as a water resource for boating and fishing, and continue to develop a tree and shrub barrier to screen commercial business along west boundary.

Lake Jacqueline Preserve (County Parks Map #13):

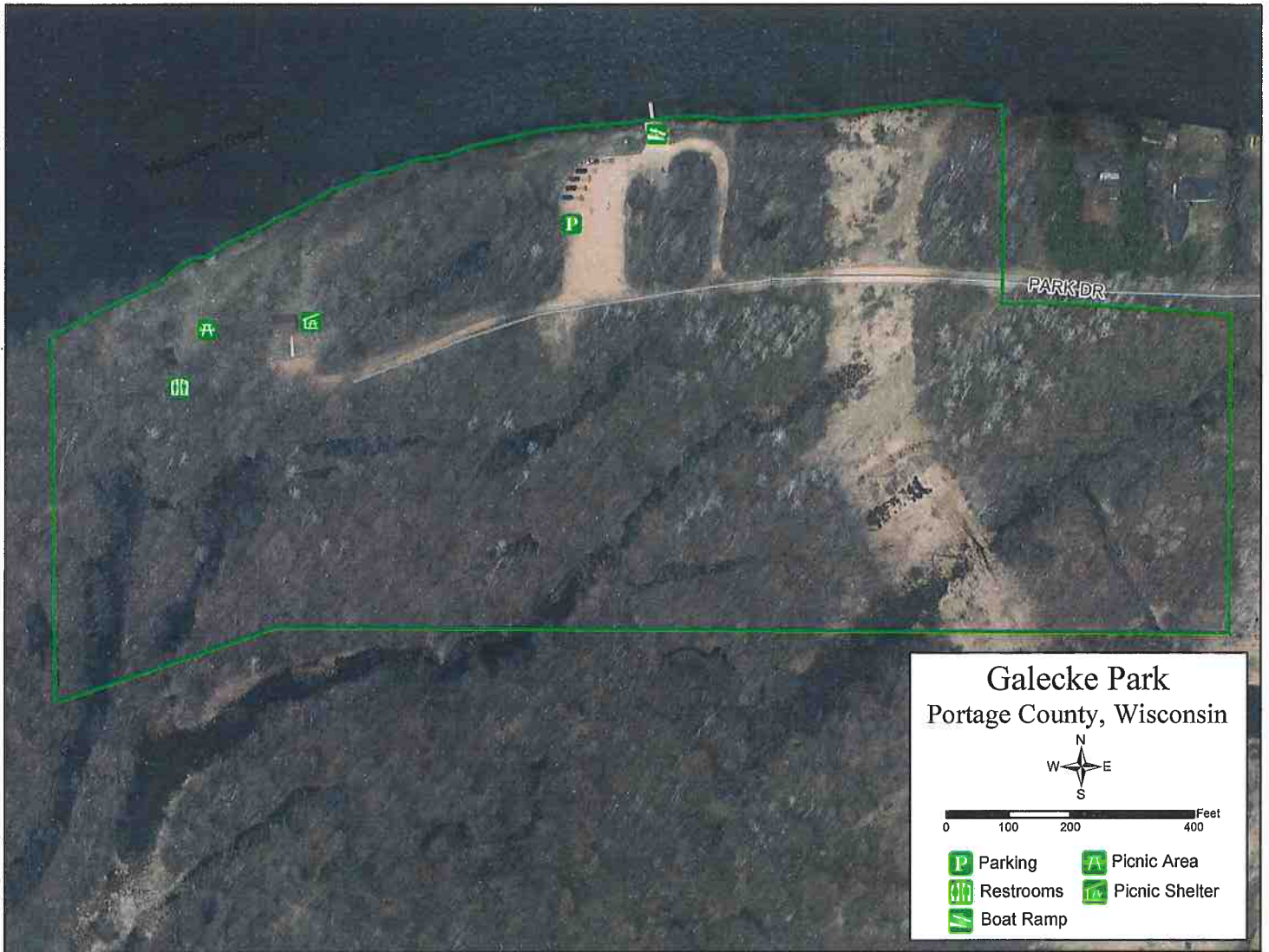
This 23.19-acre preserve is located on Lake Jacqueline in the Town of Sharon in north central Portage County.

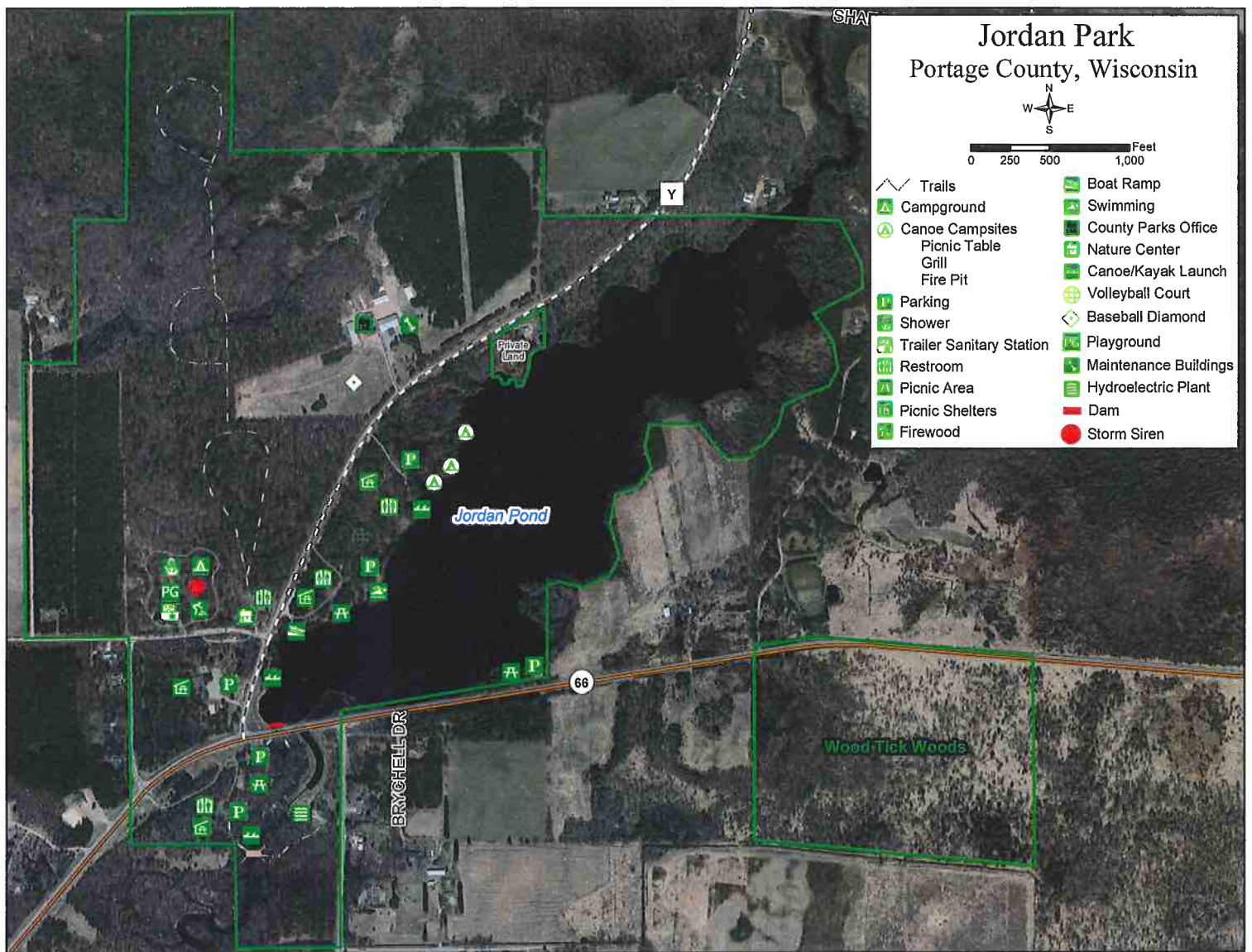
- Current Management Practices: Managed as a “green space” preserve protecting the flora and water quality of the lake area.
- Major Activities: Nature appreciation.
- Facilities: Boundaries were posted.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: A parking area and signage needs to be provided.
- Future Goals: Construction of a park entrance sign and a parking lot.

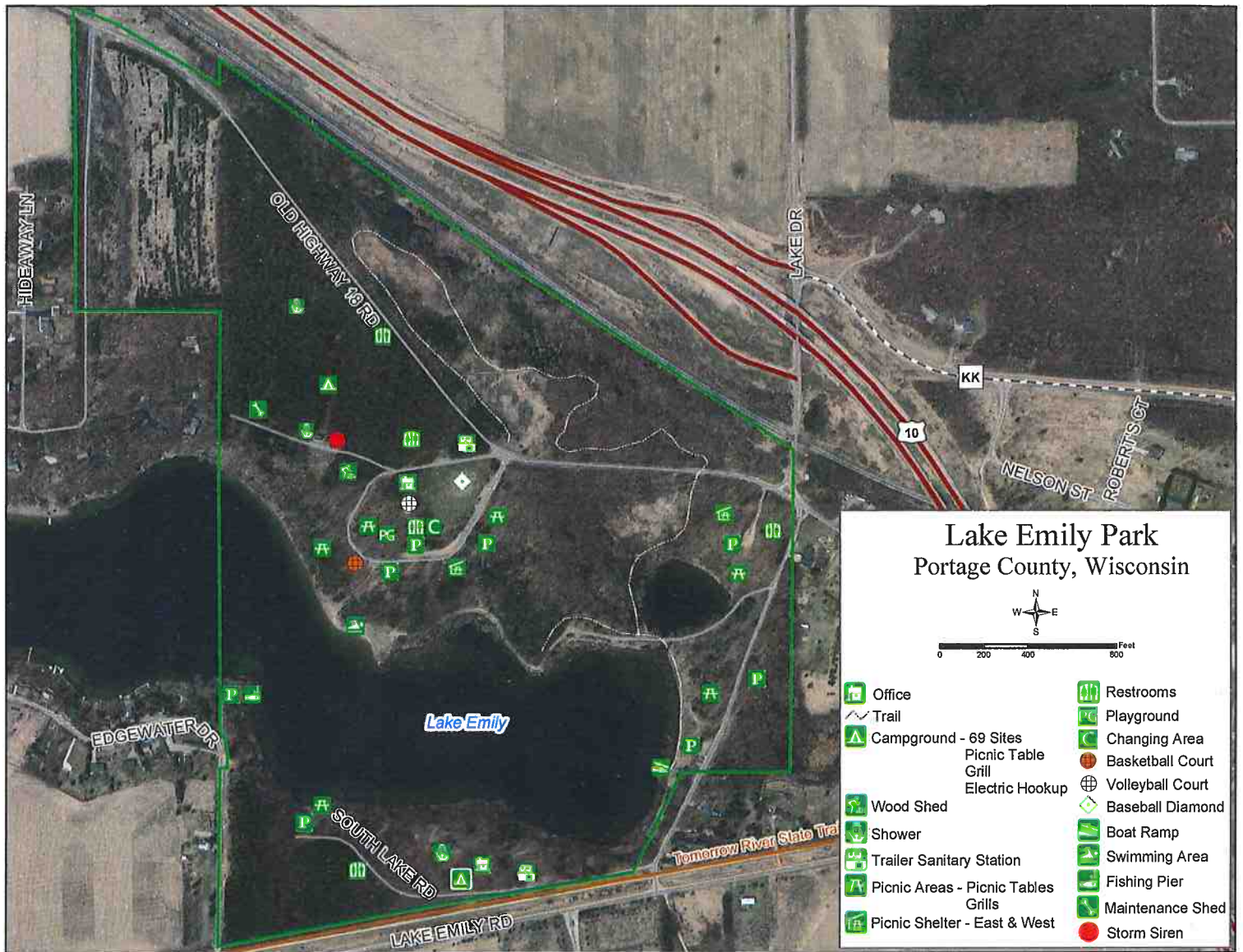
Lake Meyers Boat Landing (County Parks Map #14):

This 0.52-acre site is located on Lake Meyers Road in the Town of Amherst, one mile east of the Village of Amherst Junction.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boating/fishing access.
- Facilities: Primitive boat ramp.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Boat ramp needs to be improved.
- Future Goals: Construction of a boat ramp.







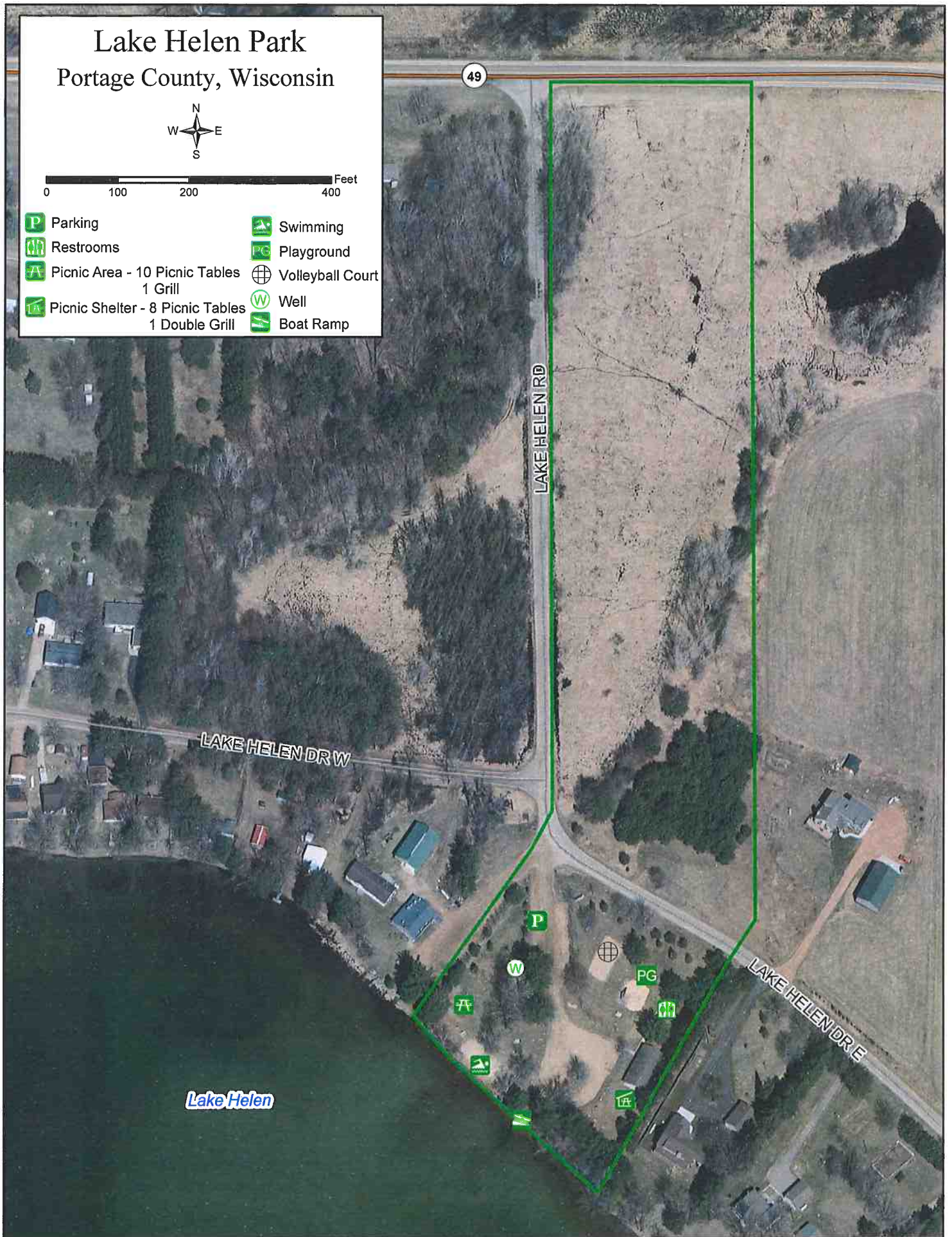
Lake Helen Park

Portage County, Wisconsin



0 100 200 400 Feet

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Parking | Swimming |
| Restrooms | Playground |
| Picnic Area - 10 Picnic Tables
1 Grill | Volleyball Court |
| Picnic Shelter - 8 Picnic Tables
1 Double Grill | Well |
| | Boat Ramp |





Lake Jacqueline

ED'S LN

J

P

JACQUELINE LAKE LN W

Lake Jacqueline Preserve
Portage County, Wisconsin



P Parking

0 100 200 400 Feet

Lake Meyers Boat Landing
Portage County, Wisconsin



0 125 250 500 Feet



Boat Landing



Mill Creek Preserve (County Parks Map #15):

This 122.25-acre preserve is located adjacent to Mill Creek in the Town of Carson in northeast Portage County.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a public hunting area and preserve for the protection of the Mill Creek watershed.
- Major Activities: Public Hunting.
- Facilities: Parking lot.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: Expansion of the parking lot.

Peterson Park (County Parks Map #16):

This 9-acre park is located on Tree Lake in the Town of Alban, and serves the Village of Rosholt as well as Portage, Marathon and Waupaca Counties.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boating/fishing area, beach, picnic area.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing.
- Facilities: Boat ramp, beach, picnic shelter, picnic area, pit vault toilet, well, playground.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: No physical improvements required; water quality is poor – with the presence of weeds and algae.
- Future Goals: Plant trees and shrubs to screen private cottages.

Plover River Wayside (County Parks Map #17):

This 0.3-acre wayside is located on County Highway K, 7 miles northeast of Stevens Point.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a canoe access
- Facilities: None.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: None identified at this time.

Portage County Cemetery (County Parks Map #18):

This 1-acre cemetery is located on Lake Road in the Town of Amherst, 1 mile north of the Village of Amherst Junction. Residents of the former Portage County farm were interred here.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a County cemetery
- Facilities: Iron boundary fence.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: None identified at this time.

Rinehart Lake Boat Landing (County Parks Map #19):

This 1.5-acre park is located on South Lake Road in the Town of New Hope, 3 miles north of the Village of Nelsonville.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boating/fishing access.
- Facilities: Primitive boat ramp.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: None identified at this time.

Rocky Run Preserve (County Parks Map #20):

This 83.66-acre preserve is located on Rocky Run and Little Chicago Roads in the Town of Linwood, ¼ mile west of Stevens Point.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a “green space” and public hunting area.
- Major Activities: Nature appreciation.
- Facilities: None.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified at this time.
- Future Goals: None identified at this time.

Standing Rocks Park (County Parks Map #21):

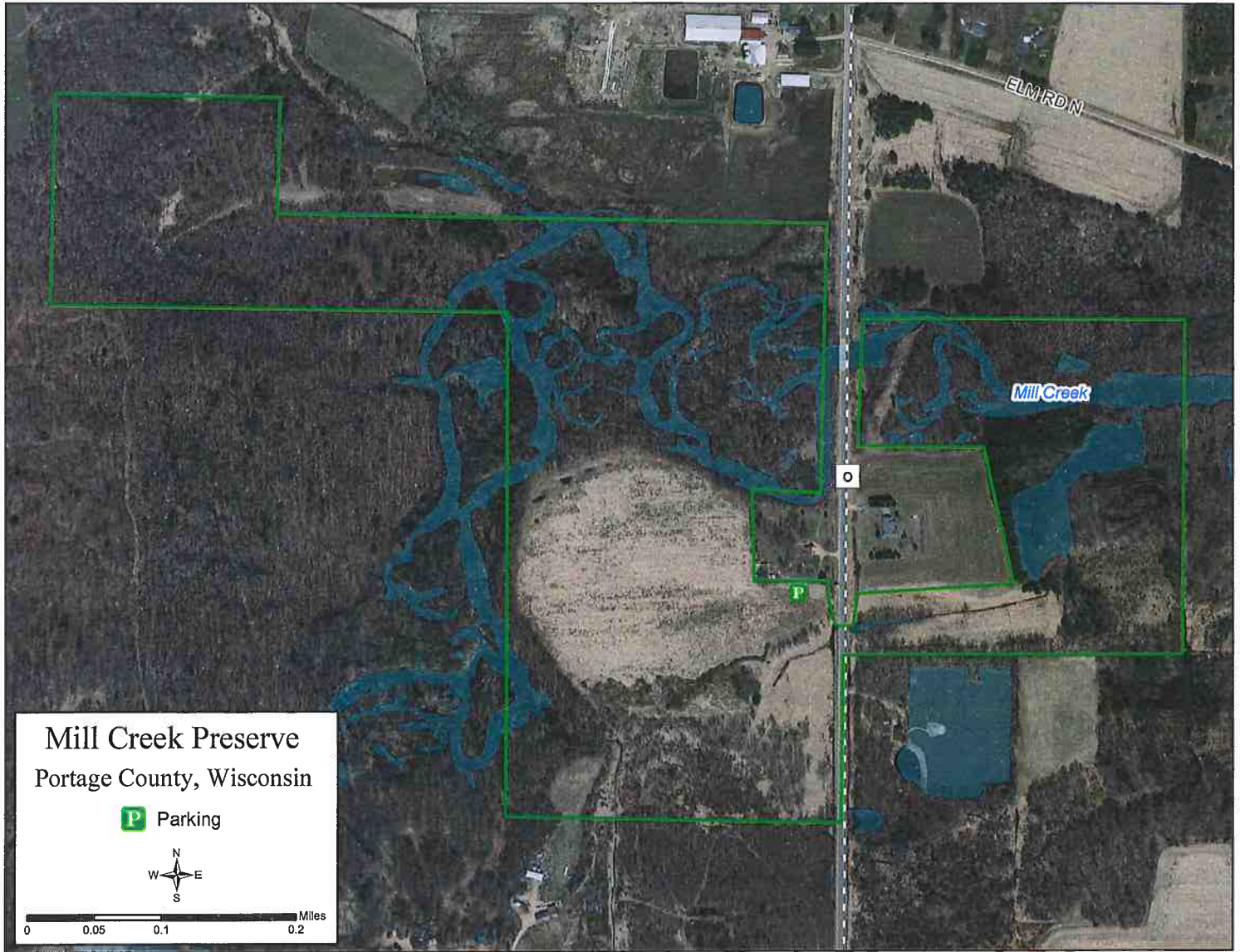
This 551.1-acre park is located on Bear Lake in the southeastern part of the Town of Stockton. The majority of the park is maintained in a natural state, and has been developed as all-season sports area, including downhill and cross-country skiing. This park serves central Wisconsin.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a downhill ski and cross-country ski area, mountain bike and hiking area, boating/fishing area, public hunting area, disc golf course, cross country running course, and dog exercise area.
- Major Activities: Downhill and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, dog exercise, and disc golf.
- Facilities: Lodge with ski equipment rental shop, pit vault toilet, 3 ski rope tows, 5 downhill ski runs, cross-country ski/hiking/mountain biking trails, public hunting area, Storage garage, disc golf course, dog exercise area.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Disc golf course expanded to 30 holes and installed a one mile loop of LED lighting for ski trail.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Lack of consistency with snow conditions, and terrestrial invasive plant species.
- Future Goals: The Parks Department would like to create a tubing hill. Upgrade facilities with a multipurpose lodge, and lighting for the ski hill. Continue to follow the forest management plan. Construct a zoned area for spraying invasive species such as Garlic Mustard and Autumn Olive. Consider a year-round park employee.

Stedman Wayside (County Parks Map #22):

This 2.85-acre park/wayside is located on County Road D in the Town of Amherst, 6 miles south of the Village of Amherst.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a fishing access and picnic area.
- Facilities: Picnic area.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Picnic Area.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None identified.
- Future Goals: This facility is considered adequate.



Peterson Park

Portage County, Wisconsin

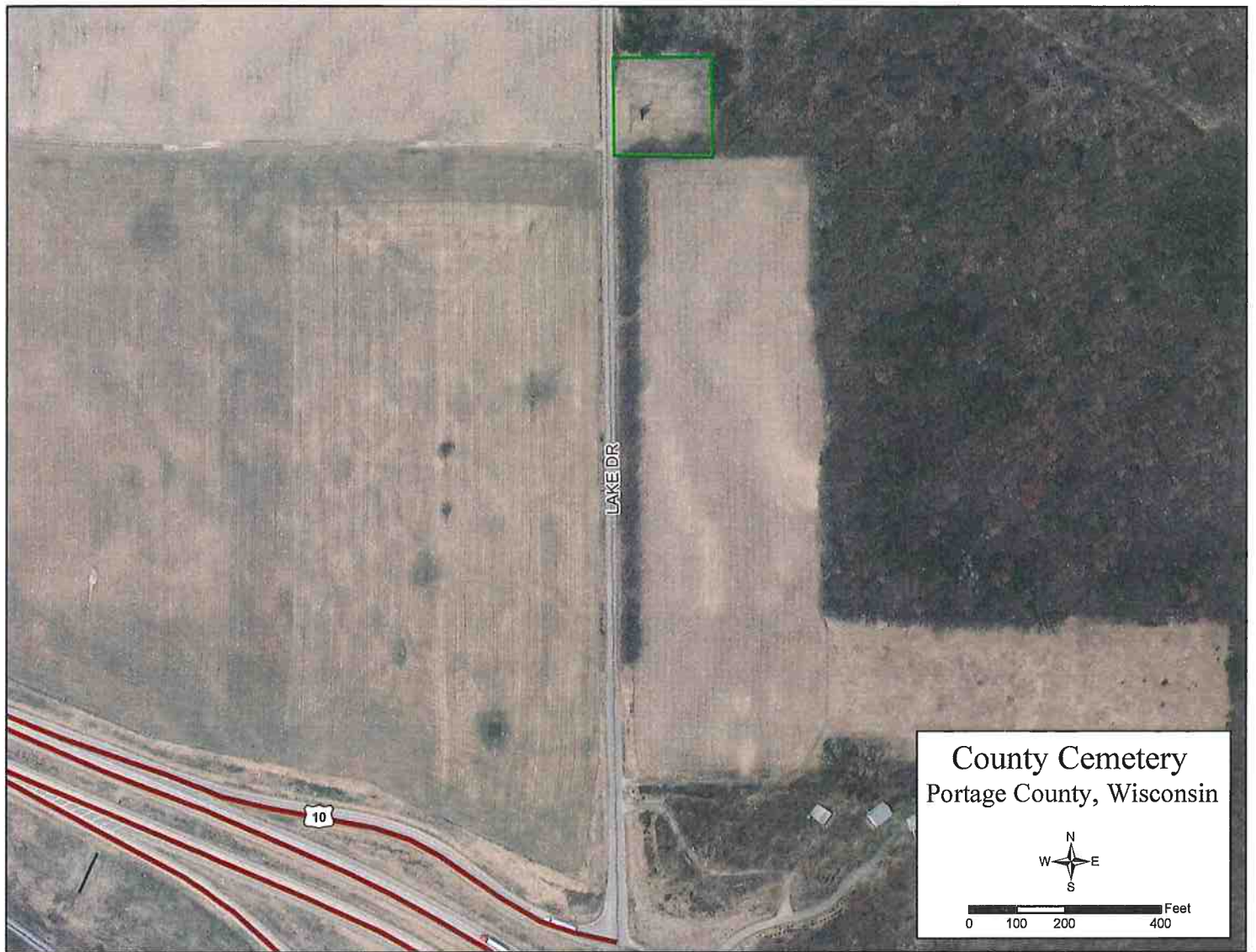


0 25 50 100 Feet

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Parking | Picnic Area |
| Restrooms | Playground |
| Open Shelter | Well |
| Swimming Area | |







Rinehart Lake
Boat Landing
Portage County, Wisconsin



0 125 250 500 Feet

Rinehart Lake

SOUTH LAKE RD

TROUT CREEK RD

T

ROCKY RUN RD

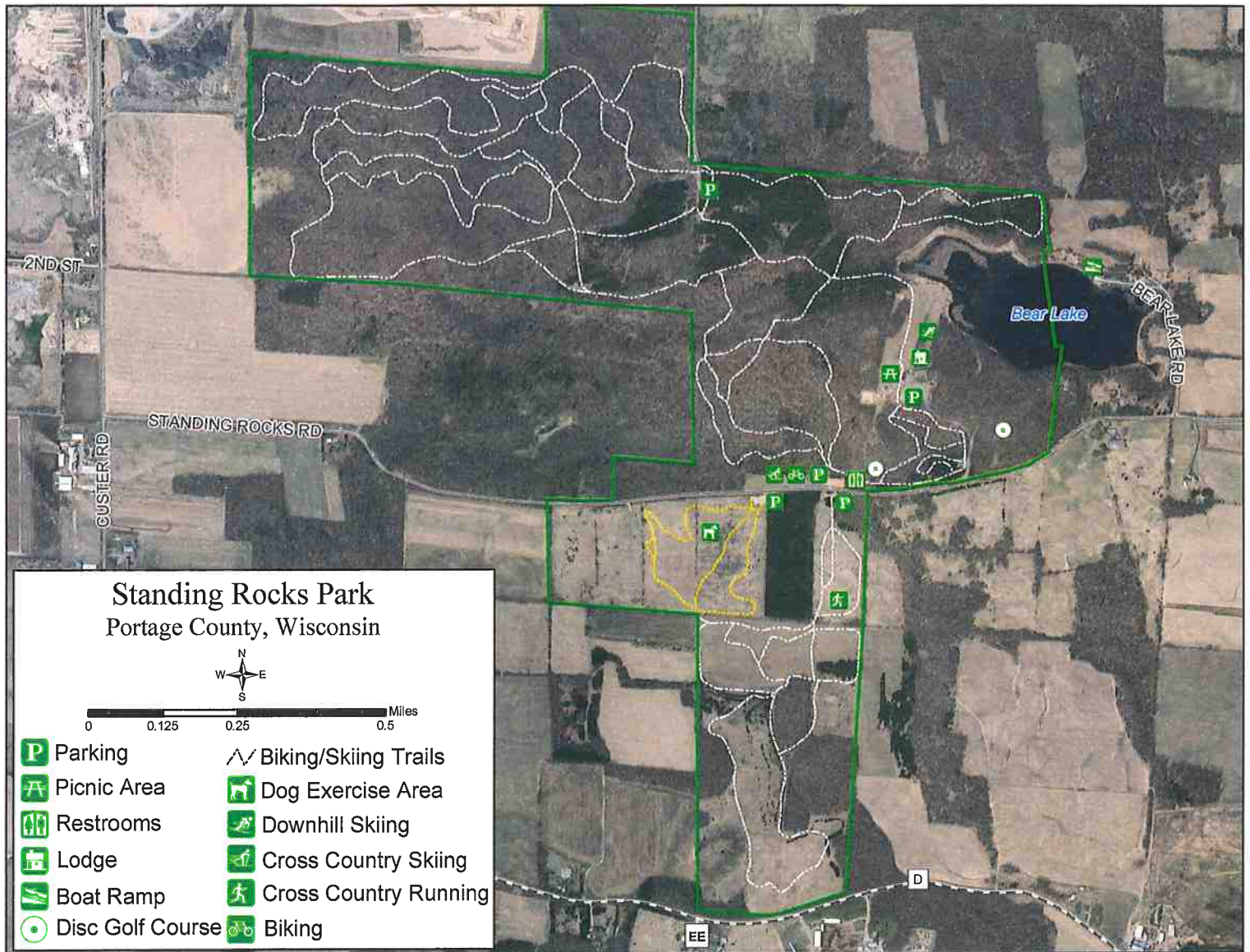
Rocky Run
Preserve
Portage County, Wisconsin



0 100 200 400 Feet

LITTLE CHICAGO RD

LITTLE CHICAGO RD





Steinhaugen Recreational Area (County Parks Map #23)

The Steinhaugen property is located on Bentley Rd in the Town of Sharon, seven miles northeast of Stevens Point. This 280-acre property is a diverse, high quality natural area with the Plover River, North Star Creek, wetlands, upland hardwood forest, pine plantations, prairie and open fields.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a green space, silent sports and public hunting area.
- Major Activities: Hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.
- Facilities: 12 car parking lot and trails.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Purchase of 10 acre farmstead in 2019.
- Problems/Deficiencies: None.
- Future Goals: Manage the unique natural resources and continue managing as a silent sport area; plan for removal of building in former farmstead; revise maintained trail maps; improve signage; utilize farmstead property for future parking, trailhead, and shelter possibly using existing well and septic.

Sunset Lake Park (County Parks Map #24):

This 36.2-acre park/beach is located on Sunset Lake in the Town of New Hope, 5 miles north of the Village of Nelsonville. After 40 years of being leased, this property was acquired in 2005.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a beach area.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing.
- Facilities: Boat landing, beach/changing stalls, shelter, two sets of pit vault toilets, well, playground, and picnic area.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Heavy use.
- Future Goals: Replace pit vault toilet buildings.

Tomorrow River State Trail (County Parks Map #25):

The Tomorrow River State Trail segment within Portage County is a 14-mile trail developed along an abandoned railroad grade starting in the Village of Plover and ending at the Portage/Waupaca County line. It is open to bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders in the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months, the trail is open to snowmobiles, skiers, and dog sleds. There is a separate horse trail parallel to the 14-mile Tomorrow River State Trail segment from Plover to the Portage/Waupaca County Line. Amherst Junction. The trail serves Central Wisconsin.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a recreation trail.
- Major Activities: Biking, hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding.
- Facilities: Fourteen miles of crushed limestone trail, parking lots at Custer Road, Amherst Junction and Cate Park, and a 14-mile off-grade horse trail.
- Recent Facility Improvements: Resurfaced the east four miles with Limestone.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Maintenance of the horse trail.
- Future Goals: Move the horse trail alongside the limestone trail.

Tomorrow River Wayside (County Parks Map #26):

This 3.07-acre park is located on Rolling Hills Road in the Town of New Hope, 1 ½ miles northwest of the Village of Nelsonville.

- Current Management Practices: Managed as a fishing access.
- Facilities: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Parking.
- Future Goals: Complete transfer of ownership to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Wisconsin River Recreational Area (County Parks Map #27):

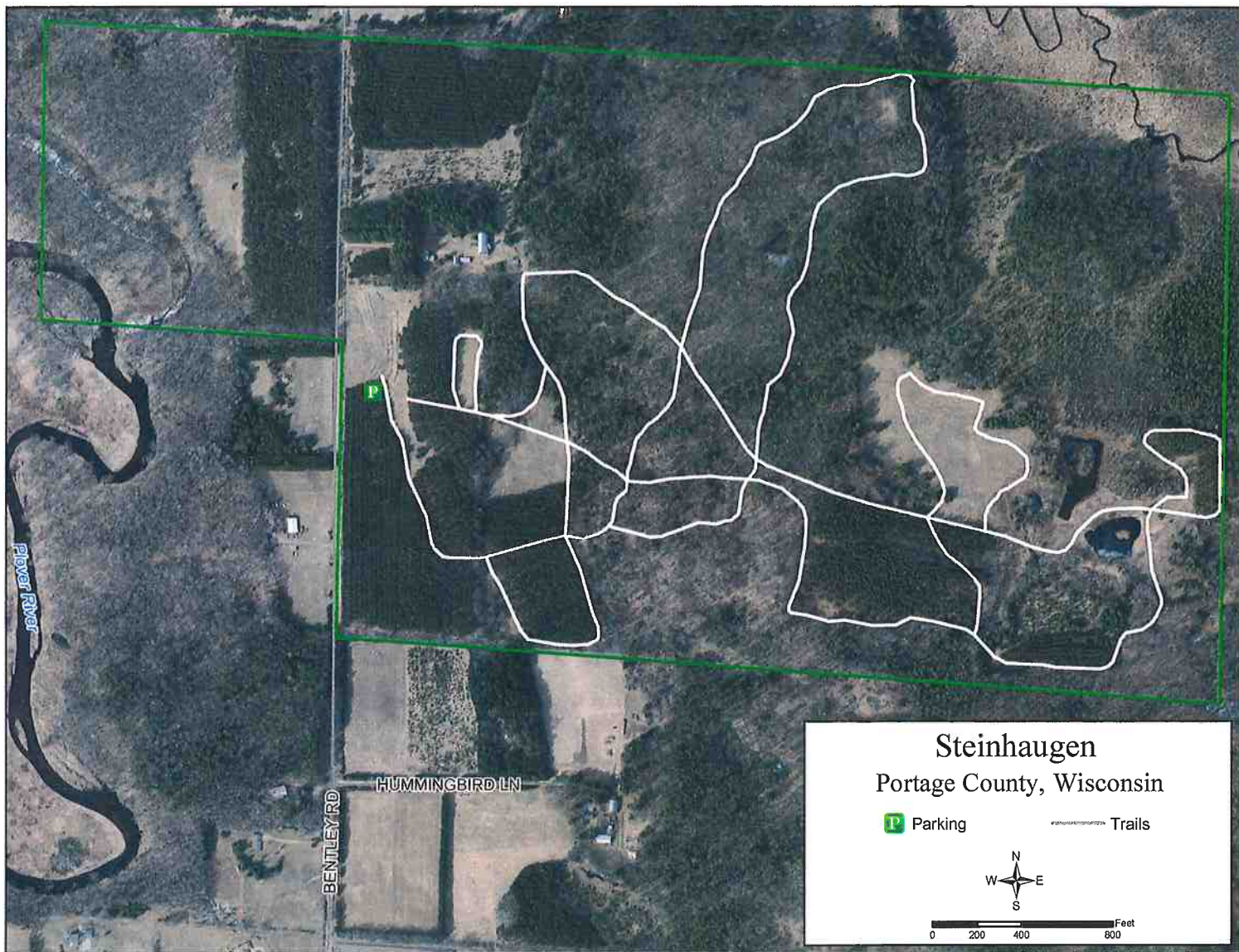
This 89.2-acre natural area is located along the east bank of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Dewey, and serves northern Portage County and Marathon County.

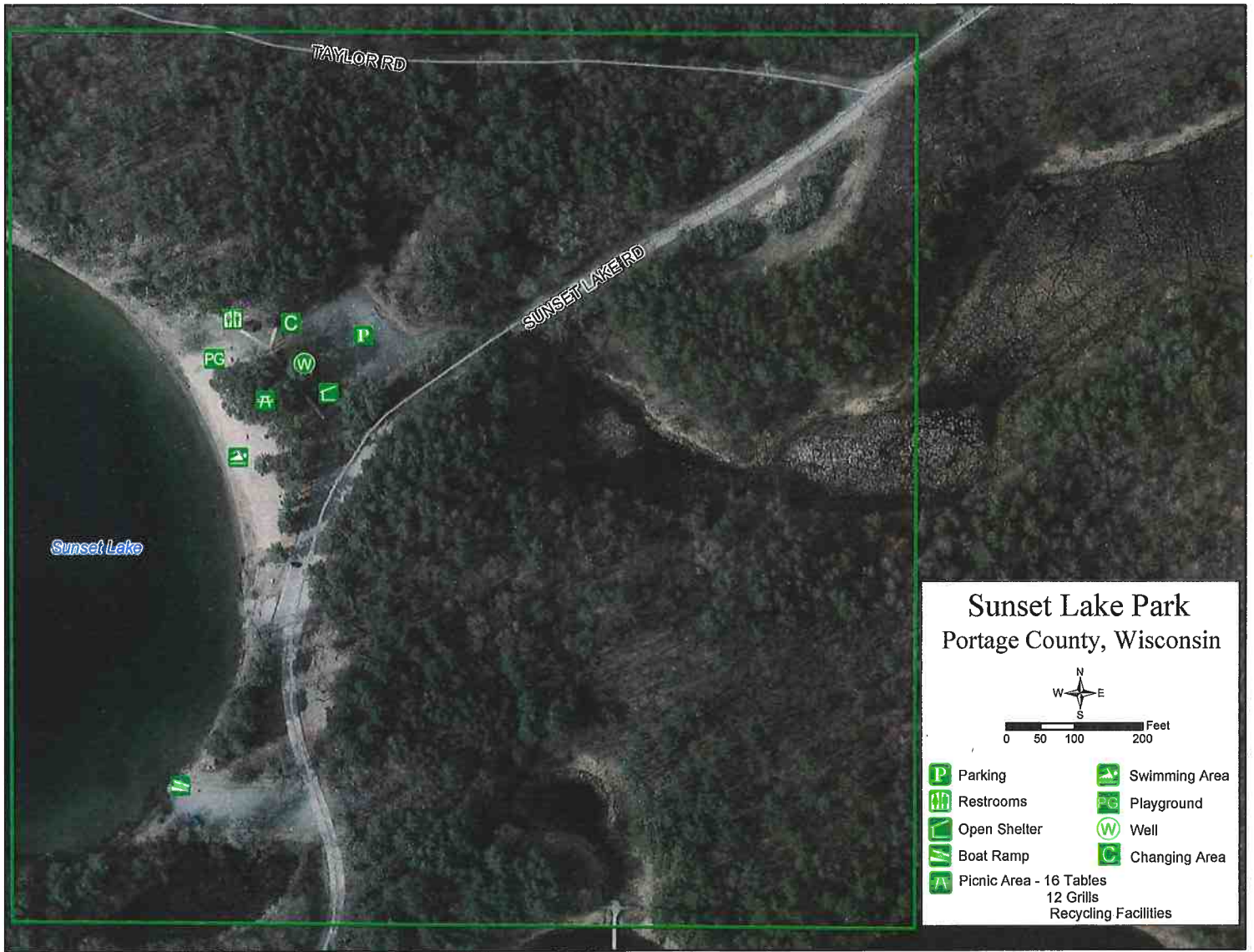
- Current management Practices: Managed as a fishing/hunting area.
- Major Activities: Nature appreciation, fishing.
- Facilities: Parking lot and gate.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Potential for vandalism is high due to isolated location.
- Future Goals: Park development. Location on Wisconsin River provides potential for linear connection. Possibility for canoeing, future campground/campsites, and cross-country skiing.

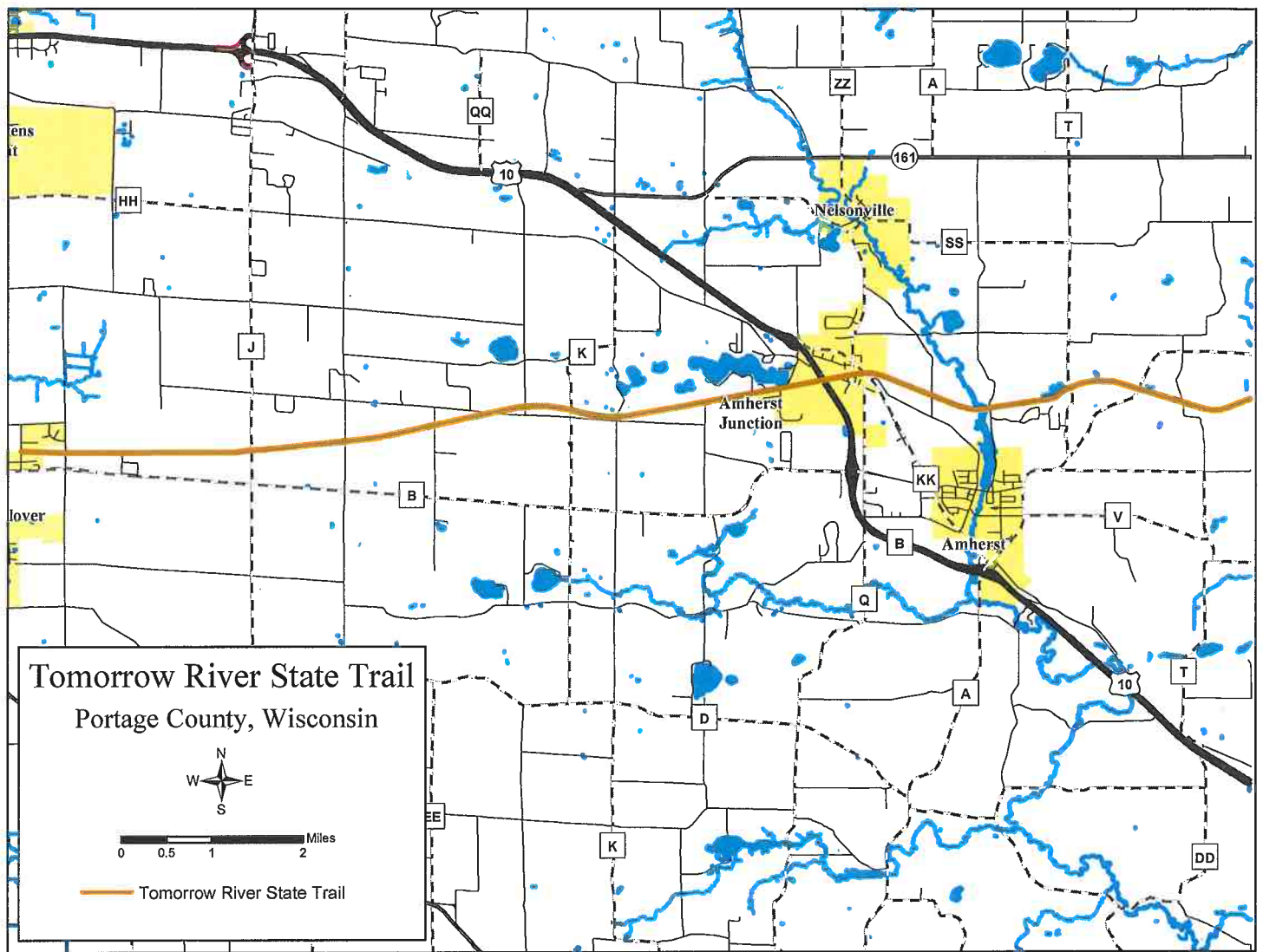
Wolf Lake Park (County Parks Map #28):

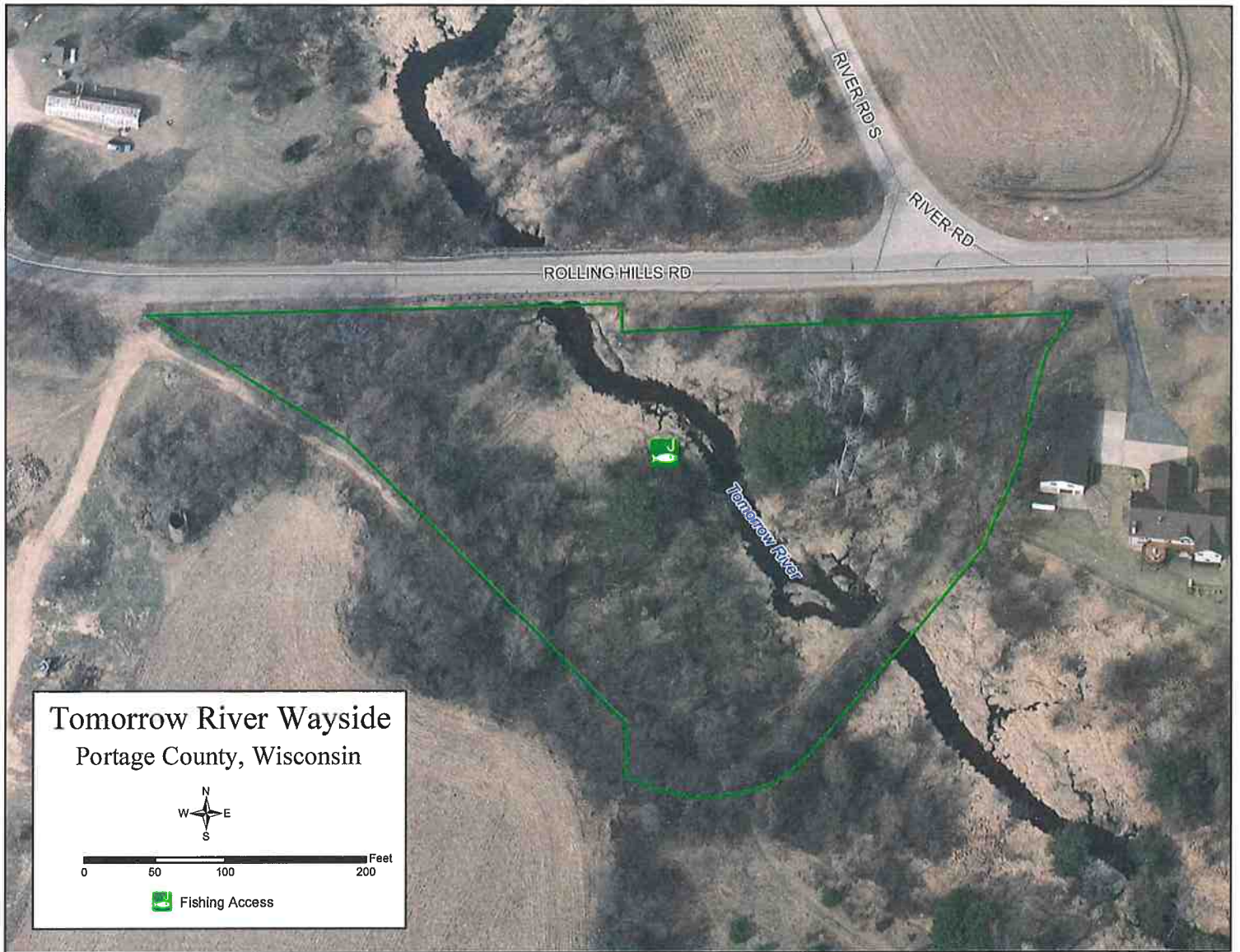
This 112.77-acre park/recreation area is located on Wolf Lake in the Town of Almond, 4 miles northeast of the Village of Almond.

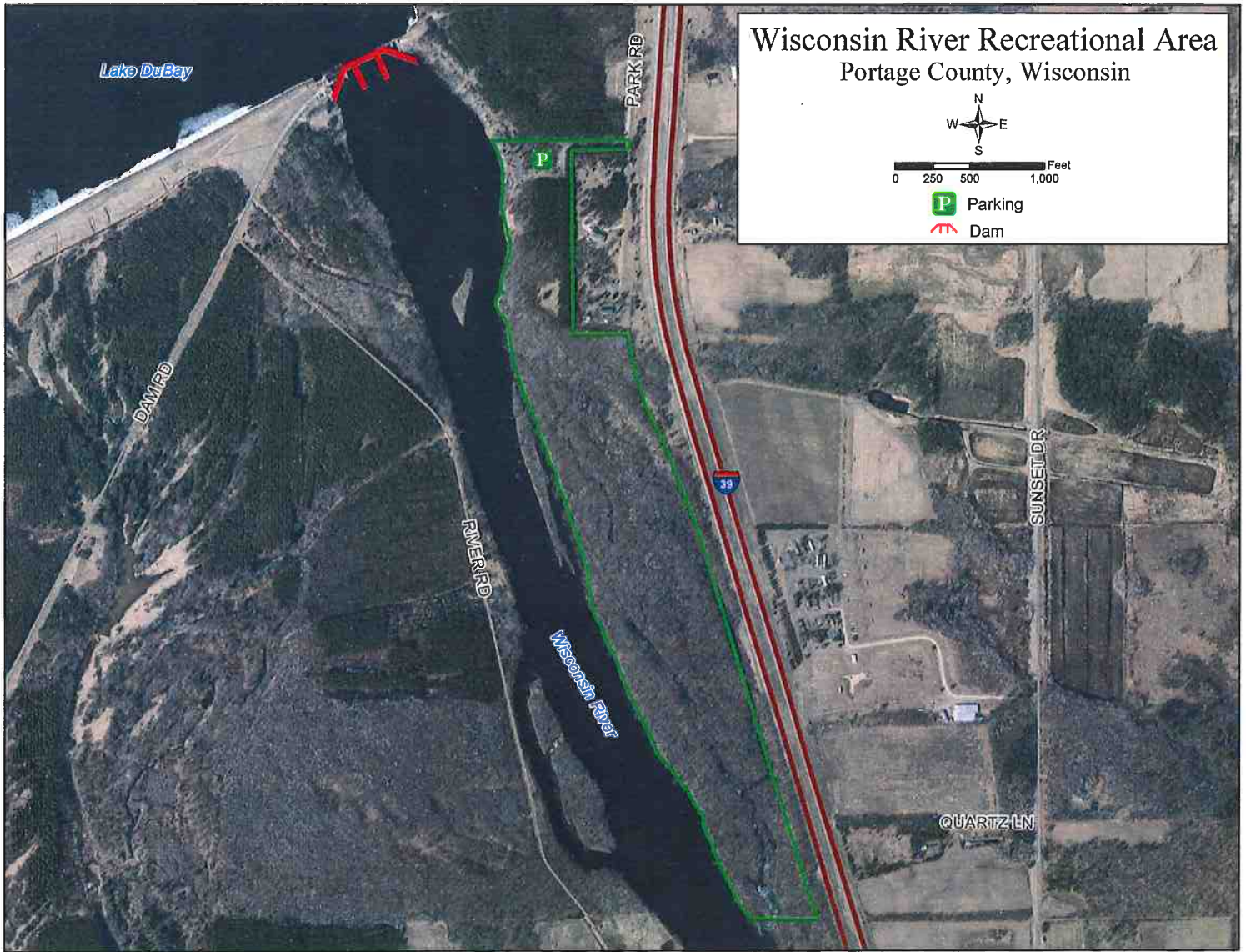
- Current Management Practices: Managed as a boat launching/fishing area, public hunting grounds, and picnic area.
- Major Activities: Swimming, picnicking, fishing.
- Facilities: Boat ramp, beach, pit vault toilet, well, picnic area, trails.
- Recent Facility Improvements: None.
- Problems/Deficiencies: Wolf Lake is completely undeveloped – the potential exists for low lake levels exacerbated by groundwater pumping and future adjacent development to adversely impact the quality of the lake, and therefore, enjoyment of the park. The natural state of the area should be protected.
- Future Goals: Acquire adjacent land; Remove trees that grew into the beach area from years of low water conditions; Follow the forest management plan.













OTHER RECREATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Planning for a tubing hill, snowmaking, and night usage at Standing Rocks Park have begun. The following activities / programs are also an important component of recreation planning in Portage County.

Snowmobile Trail Program

The Parks Department Supervisor of Programs and Operations is the county snowmobile trail coordinator. The Governor's Snowmobile Council approved funding (\$87,270) for the maintenance of 290.9 miles of trail in Portage County for the 2018-2019 season. Portage County currently contracts with ten snowmobile clubs for trail maintenance.

These trails have been designed and laid out according to snowmobile design standards. Most of the trail system is off-the-road, i.e., does not follow the road, but traverses the rural area. Portage County trails have been designed to connect to surrounding County trails in Wood, Marathon, Waushara and Waupaca Counties to maximize the effect of the trail system and to provide links in the statewide corridor trail system.

Green Circle Trail

The Green Circle Trail is a nationally recognized recreational corridor that encircles the Stevens Point Urban Area (1993 National Park Service Award, 2003 Great Lakes Region Partnership Award, 2008 Scenic Beauty Award). The Green Circle Trail is a 27-mile scenic hiking and biking trail that loops through the Stevens Point area and connects with over 45 miles of additional trails. The Green Circle Trail accentuates the rich history of the region as it follows the Wisconsin and Plover Rivers, where Native American culture once prospered and where Stevens Point began as a logging community.

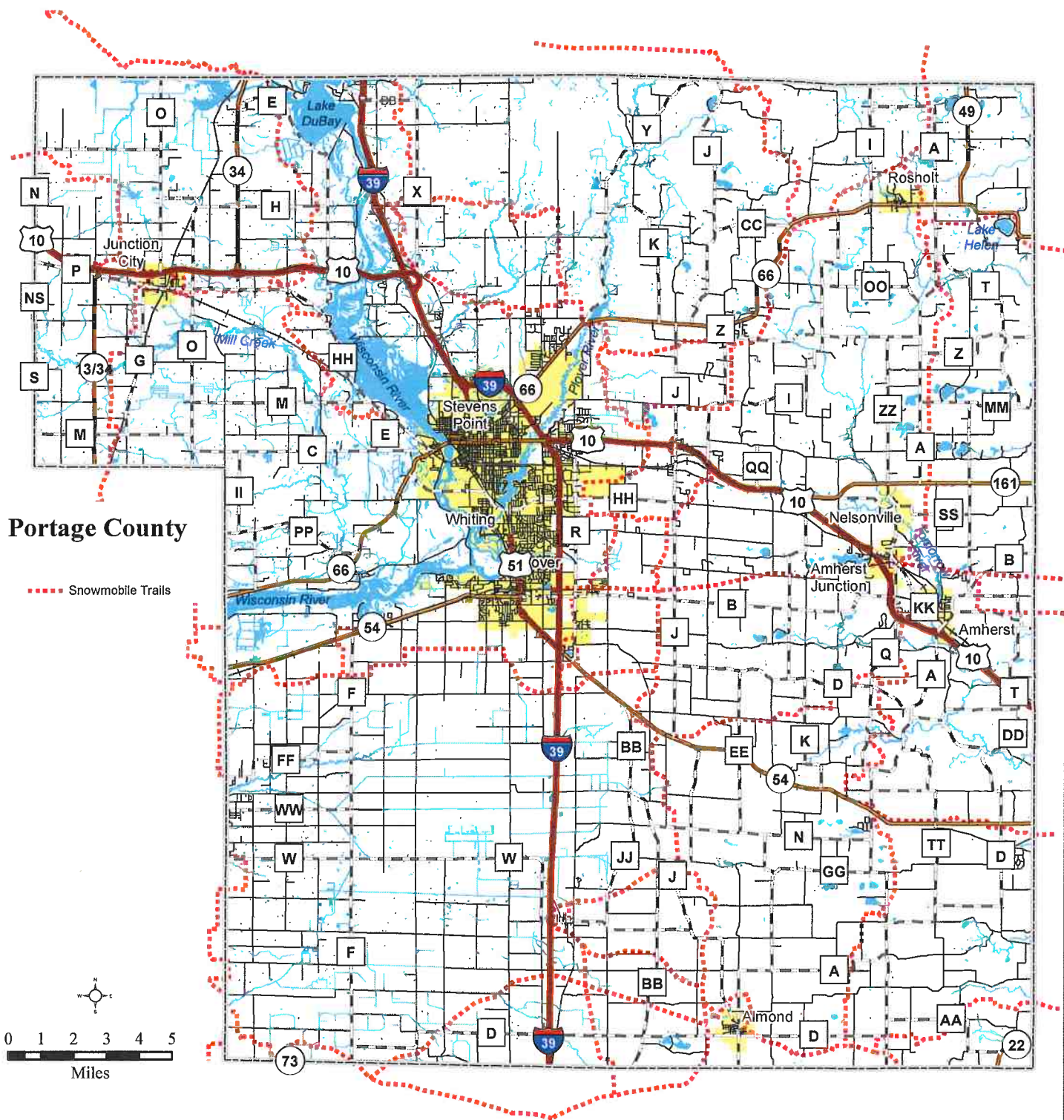
Portage County Parks Department performs all of the routine maintenance, storm damage clean-up, and enforcement on the Trail (with the exception of those segments located within City parks). Approximately 126,500 people use the Green Circle each year. According to visitor research conducted by UW-Stevens Point Forest Recreation students (2015), on average 72% of people bicycle, 17% walk, and 10% run. In 2018, about 1.2 miles of trail in the Village of Whiting were rerouted to run through the former Whiting Paper Mill land along the Wisconsin River. In 2019, a new trailhead consisting of an open-air shelter, an all-season restroom, and an overflow parking lot will be constructed near the Schmeeckle Reserve visitor center.

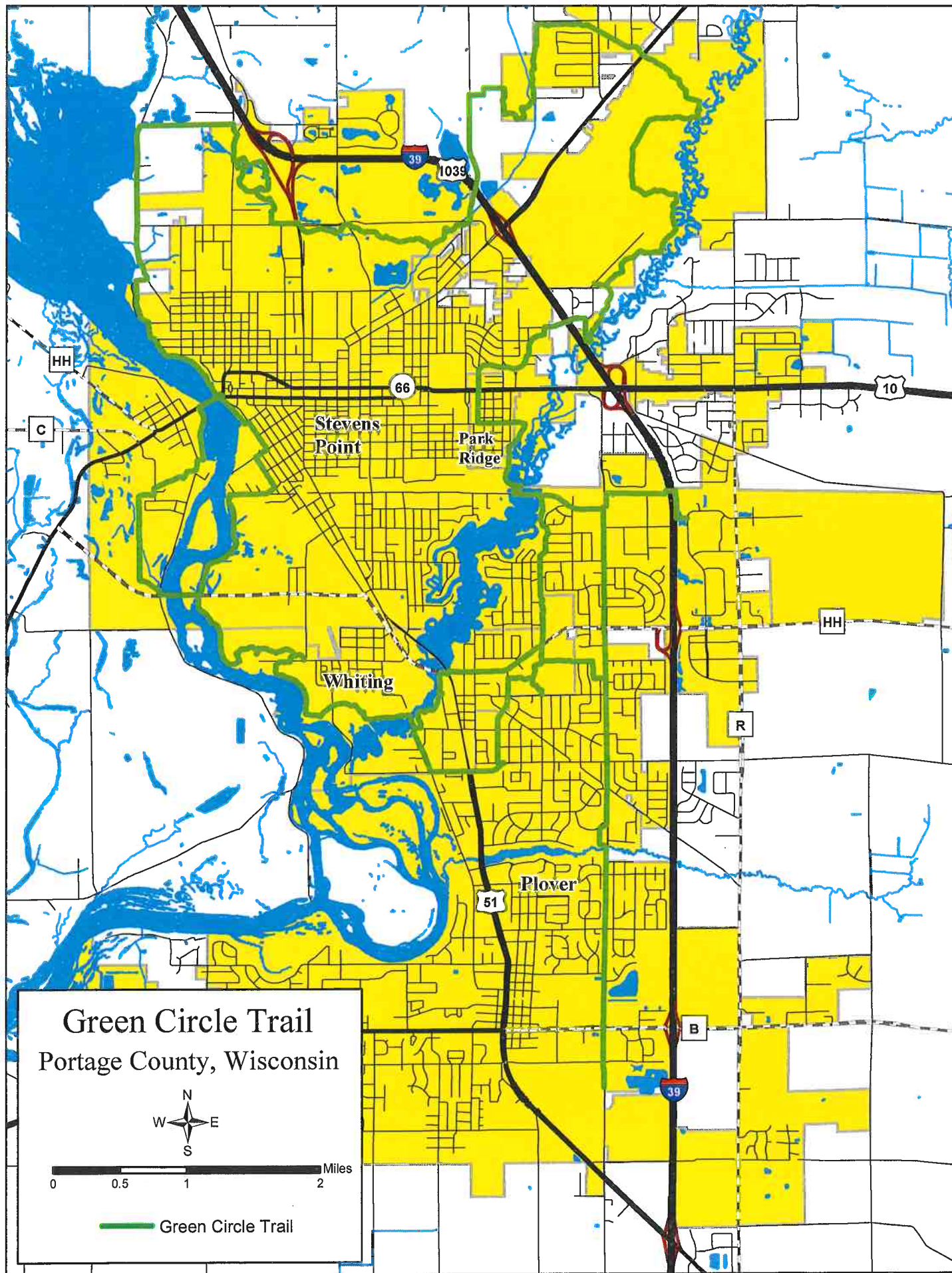
Resource Management Planning

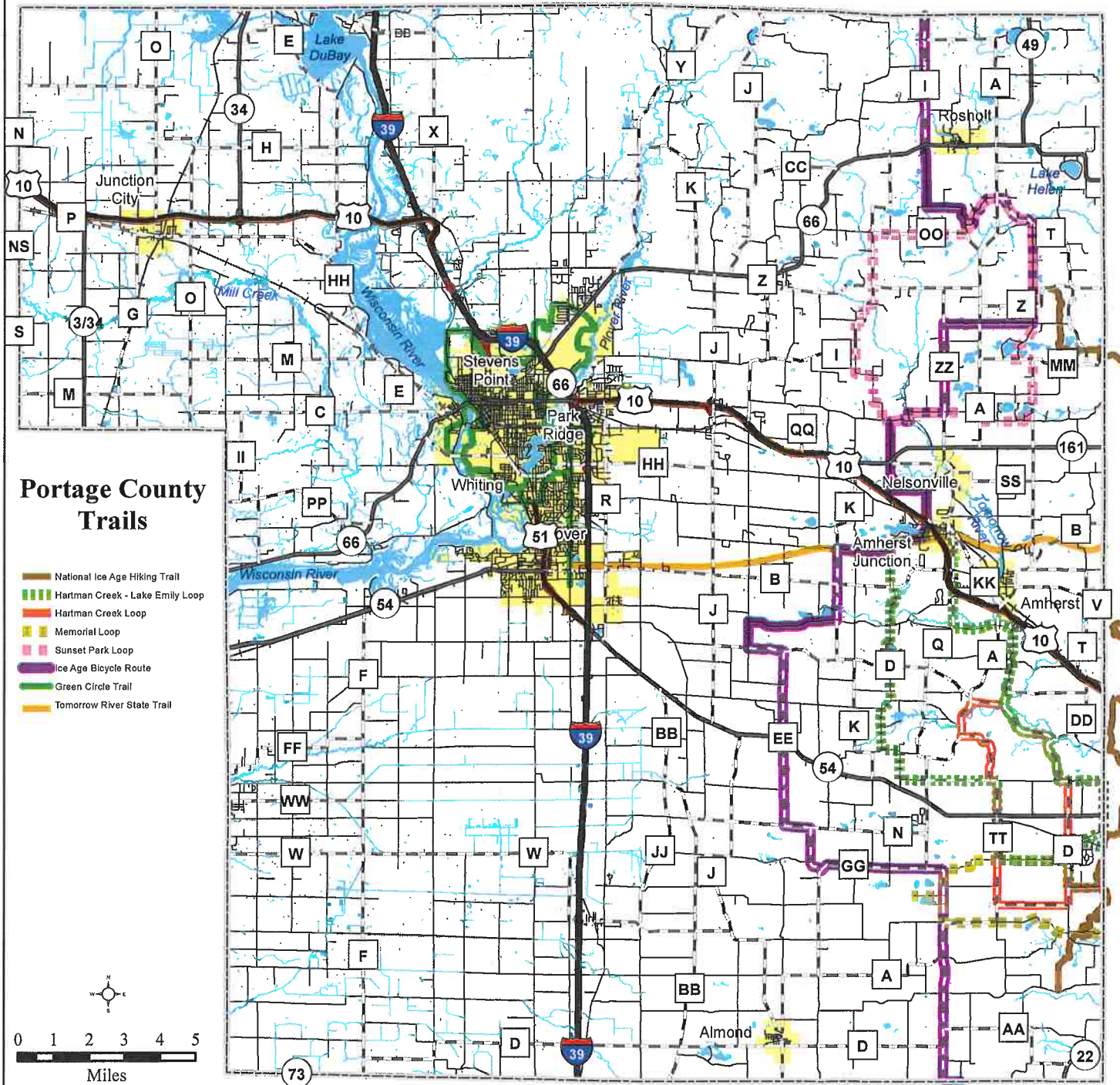
Resource management in all types of recreation areas is key to successful use and sustainability. The Portage County Parks Department has adopted forestry management plans for Wolf Lake, Standing Rocks, and the Dewey Recreation Area. Invasive species control efforts, mainly for garlic mustard, also began in 2006 at Standing Rocks and Lake Emily, and need to continue annually.

Cross Country Ski Trail Grooming

The Portage County Parks Department grooms approximately ten (10) miles of ski trails at Standing Rocks Park. In addition, the Department continues to manage, maintain, and groom the Plover River Ski Trail at the City well fields.







Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Bicycle Trail runs north and south along the glaciated areas of eastern Portage County for a total of 49 miles. The trail was designed specifically for bicyclists as it runs along portions of major roadways.

The footpath of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail winds in and out of the County along the eastern border between Portage County and Waupaca County. Portions of the Ice Age Trail are complete; however, easements across private land are still needed for much of the trail. When completed, the Ice Age trail will extend 1,200 miles among the glacial features throughout Wisconsin.

The Parks Department Supervisor of Programs and Operations continues to act as a liaison between the Parks Department and the Portage County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Trail maintenance on existing trail segments is being done by private landowners along the trail and other volunteers. The annual fall Hike-A-Thon is still the primary source of fund raising for the local chapter. There are trail segments in the Towns of Belmont, Lanark, and New Hope that link with the trail in Waupaca County.

Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

In 2014, Portage County adopted the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Plan consists of two complementary elements – a Rural Area element that addresses the unincorporated portions of the County and the outlying Villages, and an Urban Area element that includes the City of Stevens Point, the Villages of Plover, Whiting, and Park Ridge. The Plan identifies bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure recommendations for both the Urban and Rural Areas. The intended result is a single, unified network of safe and useful bicycle and pedestrian facilities that serves the transportation and recreational needs of all County residents and visitors.

See the maps showing existing and planned bicycle facilities below (as per the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan). The urban area network of bicycle facilities is designed to reach destinations throughout the Urban Area, provide connections into the Rural Area, connect recreation area, and serve a wide range of bicyclists. A section of the Plan is also devoted to enhancing Safe Routes to School for all schools within the Urban Area.

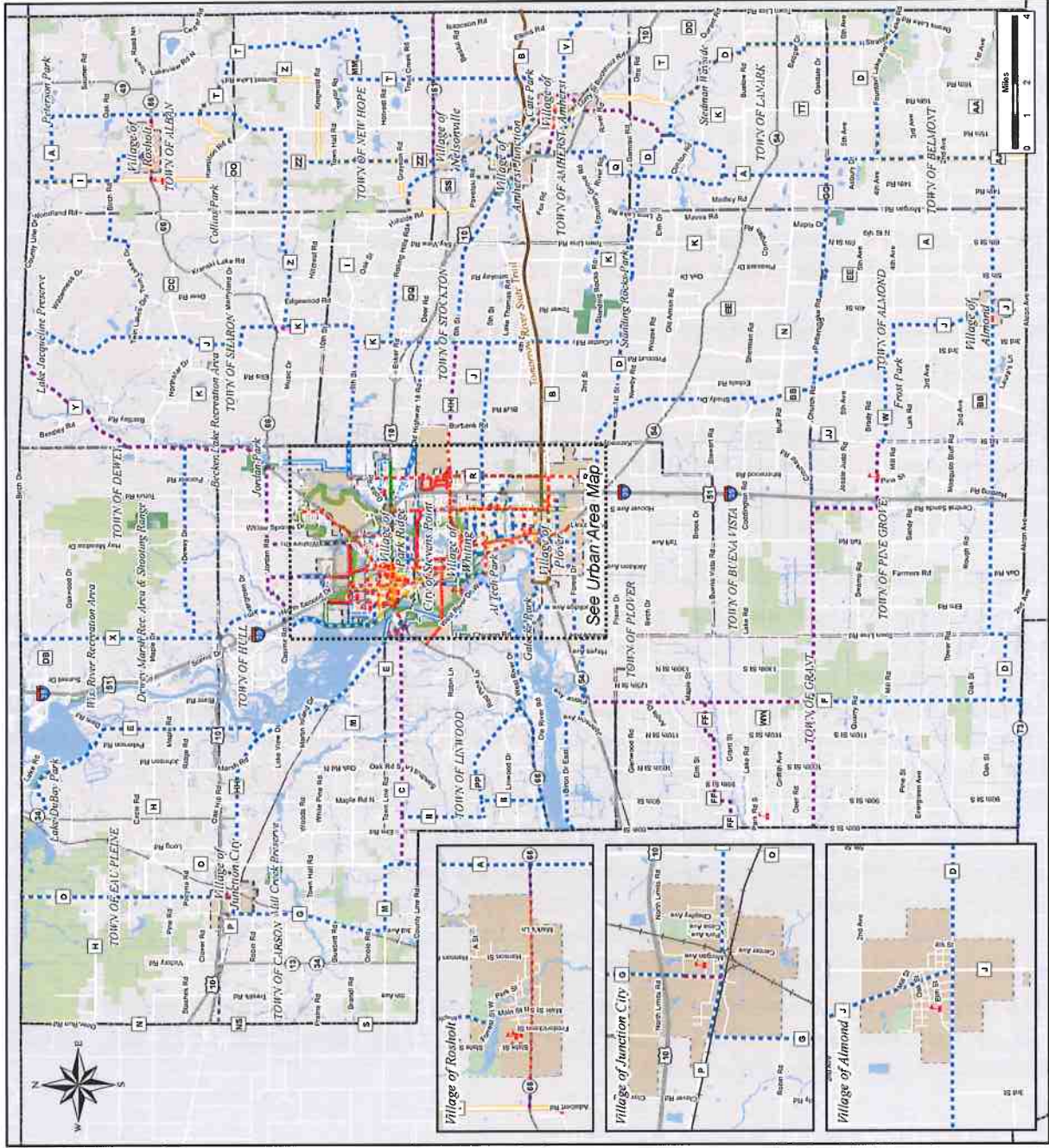
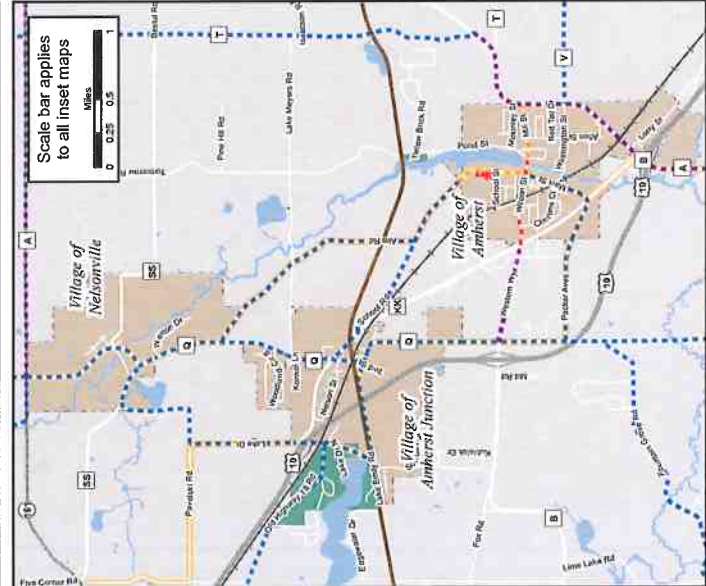
The rural area bicycle network is designed to connect the Villages, provide connections into and out of the urban area, connect to County Parks and other recreational areas, and provide connections into neighboring counties.

Portage County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Map of Countywide Existing & Proposed Bicycle Facilities

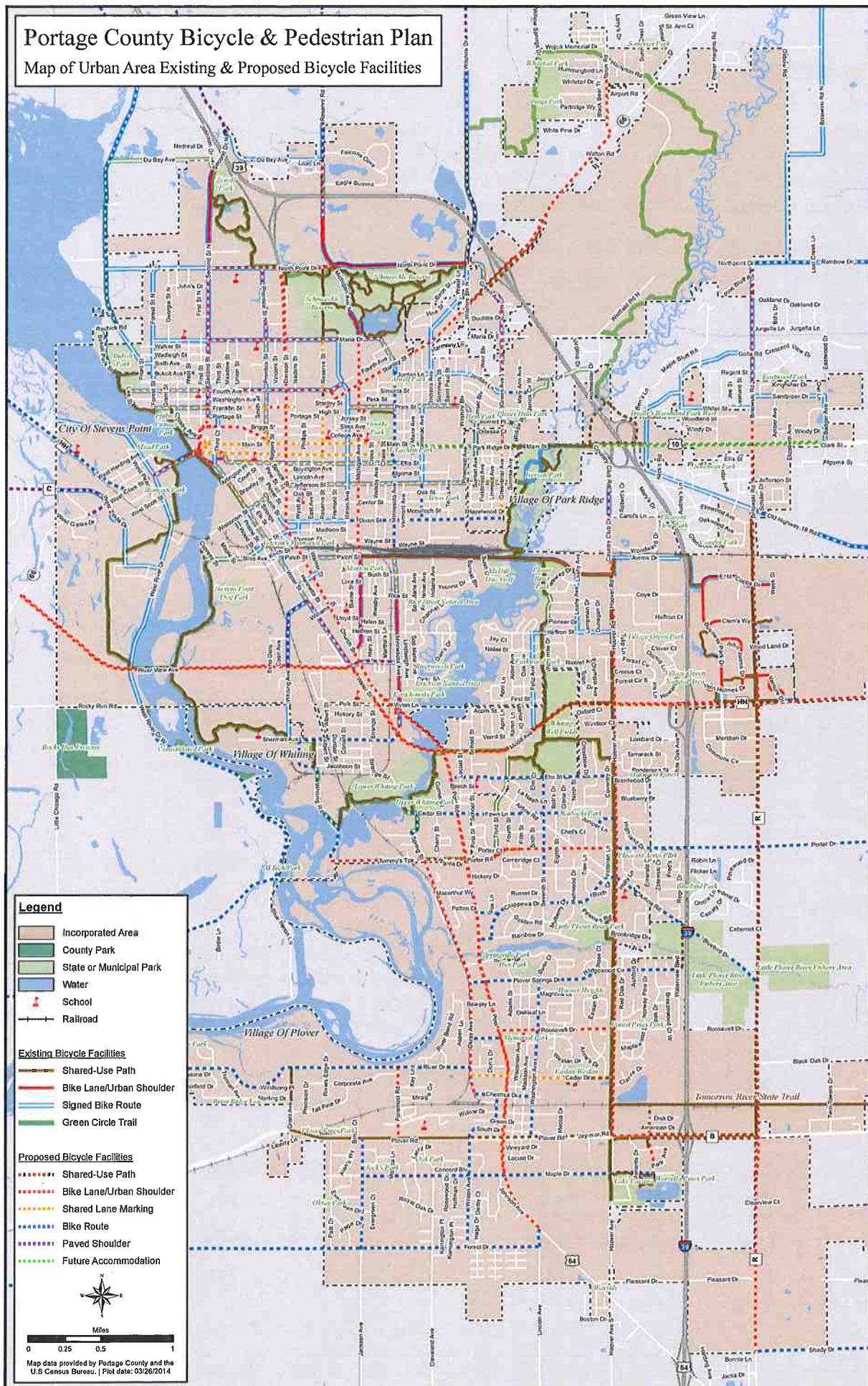
- Legend**
- Municipal Border
 - County Park
 - State or Municipal Park
 - Water
 - School
 - Railroad
 - Existing Bicycle Facilities
 - Shared-Use Path
 - Shared Lane
 - Shared Lane Marking
 - Signed Bike Route
 - Green Circle Trail
 - Ice Age Bicycle Route
 - Proposed Bicycle Facilities
 - Shared-Use Path
 - Bike Lane
 - Shared Lane Marking
 - Bike Route
 - Paved Shoulder
 - Future Bike Accommodation

Map data provided by Portage County and the U.S. Census Bureau. | Plot date: 03/26/2014



Portage County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Map of Urban Area Existing & Proposed Bicycle Facilities



Land Preservation Fund Committee

The Land Preservation Fund (PCLPF) Committee was created in 2004 for the purpose of identifying and protecting open spaces and outstanding natural, cultural, historic and/or agricultural areas in Portage County. Land can be preserved through donations, conservation easements or land purchase. The PCLPF Committee reviews applications for funding on a regular basis and sends recommendations to the Portage County Parks Commission for final approval.

Land Legacy Fund of Portage County

The Land Legacy Fund was established in the fall of 2004 as a private fund within the Community Foundation of Portage County. The primary purpose of the fund is to supplement and complement the activities of Portage County's Land Preservation Fund to identify and protect natural, cultural, historic and/or agricultural areas in Portage County by acquiring land and/or conservation easements. The secondary purpose is to work with other organizations in or near Portage County to purchase land and conservation easements that protect natural, cultural, historic and/or agricultural areas in and near Portage County.

STATE RECREATION INVENTORY

State Wildlife Areas – There are four wildlife properties in the County managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (map following page).

Mead Wildlife Area – contains over 33,000 acres in Portage, Marathon, and Wood Counties. One quarter of the acreage is located in the northwestern portion of Portage County, in the Town of Eau Claire (11,021 acres). This area hosts diverse habitats including open and forested wetlands, upland grassland, and mixed deciduous/coniferous forests. The Mead has nearly 7,000 acres of grassland between Wood, and Marathon Counties, but only a few hundred acres of grassland are found in Portage County.

- Major activities: Wildlife refuge, hunting, trapping, hiking, birding, cross country skiing, and dog training and trialing.
- Facilities: 11,021 acres in Portage County.
- Service area: Regional and statewide significance.
- Interest group served: Hunters, nature appreciation and conservation interests.

Buena Vista Wildlife Area – consists of 12,700 acres of grassland in the southwestern area of the County, spanning the Towns of Buena Vista, Carson, Grant, Pine Grove and Plover. The DNR currently owns about 8,140 acres and manages an additional 4,560 acres (portions of which are owned separately by the Dane County Conservation League and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology). These grasslands support the State's largest populations of the State-Threatened Greater Prairie Chicken and Short-Eared Owls, as well as healthy populations of the State-Threatened Henslow's Sparrow and several other grassland bird species of management concern. The Regal Fritillary (State Endangered butterfly) and Franklin Ground Squirrel (State Special Concern) also occur here. Major tracts are identified by signs, but are otherwise undeveloped.

- Major activities: Wildlife refuge, hunting, trapping, birding, cross country skiing.
- Facilities: 12,700 acres.
- Service area: Regional and statewide significance.
- Interest group served: Hunters, nature appreciation and conservation interests.

Dewey Marsh Wildlife Area – contains 6,005 acres in the Town of Dewey in north central Portage County. This area is predominately a mix of forested and open wetlands. There are enough grasslands to support populations of rare species. A great diversity of declining or rare grassland birds, including Sedge Wren, Wilson's Phalarope, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Brewer's Blackbird, Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Northern Harrier, and several rare sparrows are found locally in this area.

- Major activities: Wildlife refuge, hunting, trapping, hiking, birding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling trail.
- Facilities: 6,005 acres of State owned lands interspersed with private lands.
- Service area: Regional and statewide significance.
- Interest group served: Hunters, nature appreciation and conservation interests.

Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area – consists of 2,995 acres in Wood and Portage Counties. Over half of the acreage is located in the northwest portion of Portage County, in the Town of Carson (1,600 acres). This area has non-native, cool-season grassland and shrub-carr habitat, and is managed for the Greater Prairie Chicken and other grassland-dependent species.

- Major activities: Wildlife refuge, hunting, trapping, hiking, birding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling trail (on limited parcels).
- Facilities: 1,600 acres in Portage County.
- Service area: Regional and statewide significance.
- Interest group served: Hunters, nature appreciation and conservation interests.

Fish Management Lands – represent 4,706 acres of DNR owned lands scattered primarily in the eastern moraine area of the County. These lands are located along lakes and streams providing public access to, and protection of, these natural resources. They include the Little Wolf River Fishery Area (1,608 acres) in the Towns of New Hope and Alban, Emmons Creek Fishery Area (1,473 acres) located in the Town of Belmont, Richard A. Hemp Fishery Area (1,372 acres) located in the Towns of New Hope, Sharon, and Stockton, and Little Plover River Fishery Area located in the Town of Plover.

- Major activities: Fishing.
- Facilities: Undeveloped lands along streams.
- Service area: Portage County and central Wisconsin.
- Interest group served: Stream fishers and nature appreciation.

Hartman Creek State Park – is a regional park facility partially located in the Towns of Belmont and Lanark, southeast Portage County. Most of this 1,100 acre park is located in neighboring Waupaca County, with only 428 acres located in Portage County. The park entrance is in Waupaca County. This is a popular State park offering year-round activities. Four lakes are located in the park: 22 acres, 20 acres, 12 acres and a small pothole lake.

- Major activities: Water related activities and camping.
- Facilities: 103 family campsites with showers and toilets, 5 group campsites, picnic areas and playgrounds, 300-foot sand beach, swimming area, 10 miles of hiking trails, 12 miles of off-road biking trails, 7 miles of bridle trails (winter use: 6 miles cross-country skiing trails, and 3.5 miles of snowshoeing trails).
- Service area: Statewide as well as northern Illinois.
- Interest group served: Family camping, swimmers, nature appreciation and winter sports.

State Highway Boat Launch Sites

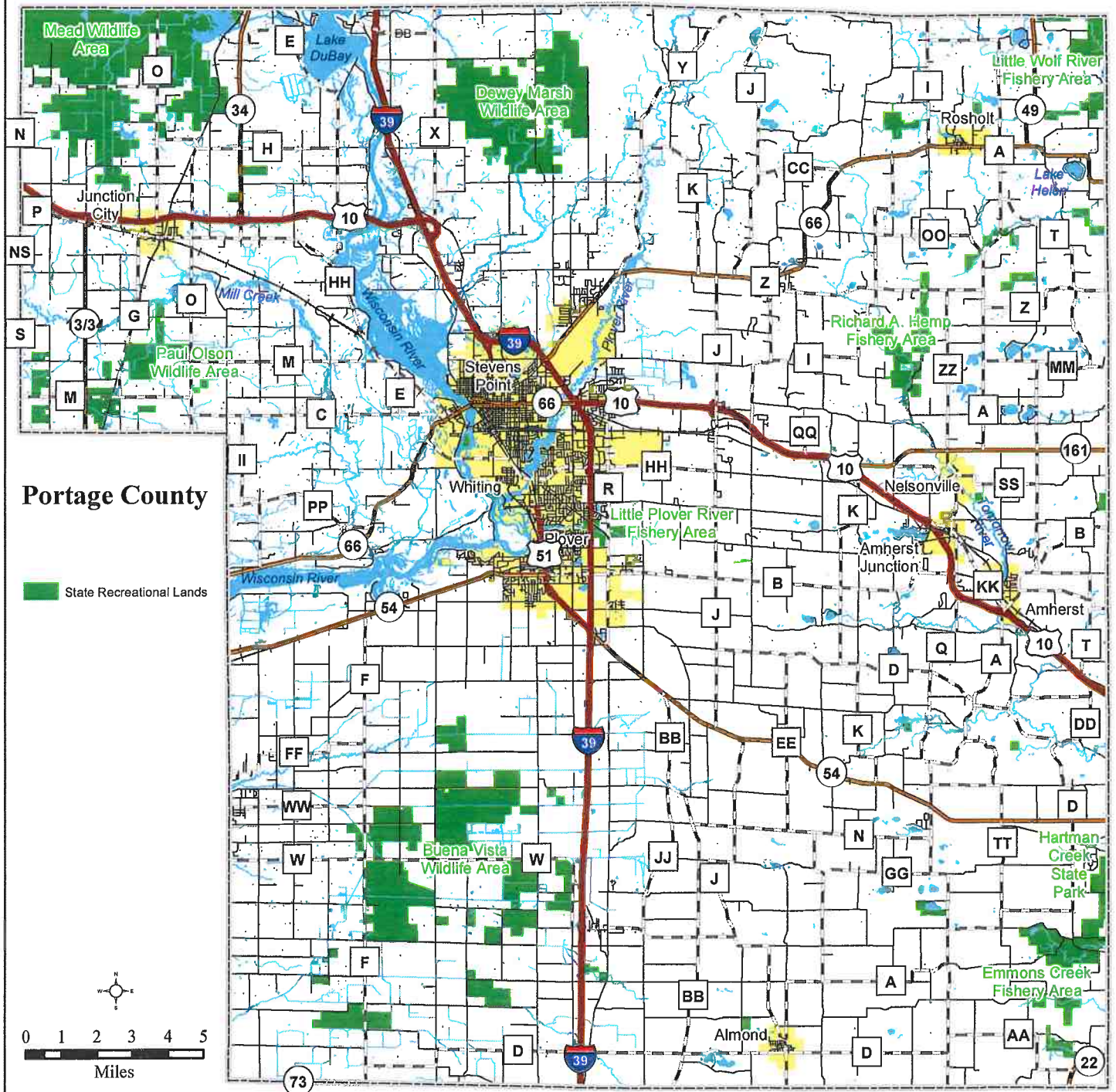
The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation operates two boat launches on the west side of the Wisconsin River.

County Road HH west boat launch, is located 4 miles northwest of Stevens Point and is approximately 2 acres in size. It does not have any improvements at this point other than the boat launch and parking.

The River Road boat launch is located under the US Highway 10 Bridge, 7 miles northwest of Stevens Point. To access this boat launch, follow County Road HH west 5 miles from Stevens Point to County Road E. Drive north on E to East River Road. Follow East River Road 1 mile to the boat launch. It is 2.6 acres in size and paved.

State of Wisconsin, Buena Vista Historical Kiosk in the Town of Grant.

This is a State Marker and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource informational kiosk just east of the Junction of County Roads W and F. The major activities at this site are birding. The site is used year round, especially in the spring. It is also used as a learning site for the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. The site currently has a small number of parking spaces available.



SECTION 4 COUNTYWIDE RECREATION GOALS AND POLICIES

OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

Three principal goals are herein identified for the 2020-2025 planning period:

- Goal 1 Provide a Countywide park and recreation system which meets the outdoor recreation needs of County residents, as well as preserving and protecting areas of beauty in natural settings, in both an economic and environmentally sensitive manner.
- Goal 2 Make Portage County and participating municipalities eligible for continued participation in the Wisconsin Stewardship Program, other recreational grants administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and any future outdoor recreational grant programs, which require an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. A description of the various State grant programs relating to recreation is included in Appendix A of this report.
- Goal 3 Support the implementation of a Countywide bike and pedestrian plan linking the urban areas of the City Stevens Point, the Village of Whiting, and the Village of Plover to an interconnected series of routes to the various County parks with connecting routes from park to park including connection routes to neighboring counties.

OUTDOOR RECREATION POLICIES

Seven principal policies are herein identified for the 2020-2025 planning period:

- Policy 1 Protect and conserve natural resources which provide special opportunities for outdoor recreation by:
 - purchasing lands with unique features or in strategic locations;
 - supporting the use of protective zoning, e.g. Conservancy Zoning, on environmentally sensitive lands, both public and private;
 - supporting environmental education programs; and
 - carefully managing existing parks and facilities to avoid deterioration, overcrowding, and loss of aesthetic values.
- Policy 2 Provide a broad variety of park and recreation facilities and programs including:
 - active and passive recreation;
 - multi-season outdoor uses;
 - multiple use activities;
 - facilities which are accessible to all, including youth, elderly, and handicapped persons; and
 - facilities which are open to all people regardless of race, color, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Policy 3 Encourage cooperation and coordination among local units of government in developing park or recreation facilities, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Consider the development of joint recreation facilities in or near urban areas.
- Policy 4 In addition to the 5 year programs included in the County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, develop and consider a longer range planning program to address

the County's future outdoor recreation needs.

- Policy 5 Actively seek funding sources to supplement the County's recreation budget in order to maintain a high quality park and recreation system. This includes maintaining eligibility for various federal and state recreation grant-in-aid programs and actively seeking such monies as a principal method of implementing necessary park projects.
- Policy 6 Actively seek public input in the planning and design of major outdoor recreation projects.
- Policy 7 Support the implementation of a Countywide Bike and Pedestrian Plan by providing information to the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department with a prioritized list of park to park linkages. Linking parks in proximity to bike and pedestrian trails in neighboring counties will be included on the priority list.

SECTION 5

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, 2020-2025

The following improvement program deals with general recommendations for improving the quality of recreational experiences and specific proposals concerning acquisition and development projects. It should be understood that acceptance of these proposals and recommendations does not mean that this plan is final, absolute, or binding. This plan should be revised, as needed, in order to maintain its usefulness as an up-to-date working tool.

This program addresses the needs and demands of outdoor recreation. It is acknowledged that there are other County recreational needs and demands which are typically satisfied in an indoor setting. Public planning for recreation is generally limited to outdoor activities because of the statutory responsibilities of the Park Commission and County Board. Therefore, indoor recreation activities, for the purpose of this plan, are assumed to fall primarily within the jurisdiction of private enterprise or semi-public institutions.

This five year program of acquisition and development of parklands is based, in part, upon the user trends and needs identified in this Plan. Phasing of the major projects, especially acquisition, will depend upon many factors, some of which are not controlled by the Park Commission. Project priorities will be dependent on the availability of funds, as well as the availability of lands which have been identified as being desirable for park expansion.

Existing facilities will be upgraded on a regular, yearly schedule. These projects include improvement of swimming beaches, campground facilities, water quality improvement projects, additional picnic facilities and minor expansion of active play facilities.

The purpose of the following acquisition projects is to: 1) respond to overcrowding or other problems with existing facilities, 2) provide new or expanded facilities where needed and 3) improve the overall quality of the County Park and Recreation system.

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Collins Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Protect and improve quality by purchasing additional lands to reduce nutrient enrichment, expand existing facilities and preserve open space.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park
- Current Status – Discussion with adjacent landowner has occurred.

DuBay Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Protect and improve quality by purchasing additional adjacent lands for future park expansion and protection from development.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park

Galecke Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Land contiguous to the park should be purchased for future park expansion and protection from development.

Green Circle Trail:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Expand existing facilities for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.
- Location – Land that provides for expansion of existing trail system, as well as acquisition of private lands, where existing trail segments may be threatened.
- Current Status – Green Circle Committee is trying to secure long term agreements or purchases. The Green Circle Committee coordinates any acquisitions.

Jordan Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Expand existing facilities, preserve open space for future needs.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park

Lake Emily Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Expand existing facilities and preserve open space for future needs.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park

Standing Rocks Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Expand existing facilities for outdoor recreation and preserve open space for future expansion needs.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park

Sunset Lake Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Land contiguous to the park should be purchased for future park expansion and protection from development.

Unique Natural Resource Areas:

The County has adopted the Portage County Open Space Plan 2000 for identifying, preserving and in some cases purchasing environmentally significant lands. Of particular concern are those lands which are still undeveloped and which afford the opportunity to maintain significant natural or open space areas. Lands which are associated with stream corridors or other natural features, lands with special scenic value, and lands which connect or link such areas, are given high priority for future protection. Purchase, land trade, conservation easements, or other compensatory forms of acquisition or development restrictions should be considered as alternatives/supplements to the use of conservancy-type zoning. Acquisition of desirable lands would eliminate the pressure for private rezoning/development requests, allow for public access, and allow the private landowner some form of compensation not presently afforded under Conservancy zoning. Scenic easements should be considered where public ownership is not desirable or feasible.

To aid in accomplishing this objective, the County has created two zoning districts to match the existing Natural Areas Land Use categories. These consist of a strict CON, Conservancy District and a second district to be used for areas that are sensitive or buffer sensitive areas. This less strict second district is named RL, Rural Limited District and has been created with the Portage County Parks Department in mind. These two districts should allow the Parks Department to manage the County Parks as needed.

- Purpose of Acquisition – To protect and preserve unique natural resources areas, especially those identified in the Portage County Open Space Plan.
- Location – Land where unique natural resources occur or that need protection.
- Current Status – The Mill Creek and Lake Jacqueline Preserves were acquired with the Land Preservation Fund.
- Proposed Action – Unique areas throughout Portage County should be identified; work to implement the recommendations of the Portage County Open Space Plan.

Urban Park Recreation Facility:

- Purpose of Acquisition – To acquire private property that may lead to the development of a public recreation facility. The recent Little Plover River Land Acquisition is not part of the planned land acquisition for the Urban Park Recreation Facility.

- Location – Centrally located in the County.
- Current Status – The Park Commission has approved the Urban Park Concept.
- Proposed Action – Proposal has been stalled. Timeline for study should be developed.

Wisconsin River Recreation Area:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Land contiguous to the park (north of existing County land) should be purchased for future park expansion and to protect the area from development.
- Current Status – Discussed acquiring land with Consolidated Water & Power Company in the past.
- Proposed Action – Continue discussion with Consolidated Water & Power Company.

Wolf Lake Park:

- Purpose of Acquisition – Expand existing facilities, preserve open space for future needs and protect the shoreline from future development.
- Location – Land contiguous to existing park
- Current Status – The County is still interested in pursuing the acquisition to the south. Negotiations with landowners to the south have not been successful to date.

DEVELOPMENT / IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

The purpose of the following development/improvement projects is to: 1) Respond to overcrowding or other problems with existing facilities, 2) Provide new or expanded facilities where needed, and 3) Improve the overall quality of the County Park and Recreation system.

Short Term Projects

Galecke Park

Stream bank erosion control is an ongoing project.

Jordan Park

The pit toilet buildings are scheduled to be replaced during this plan period.

Standing Rocks

The design phase for the winter recreation improvements began in 2007. A tubing hill and new ski hill are designed. Equipment for the terrain park has been installed. Construction of a multi-purpose Outdoor Recreational Building will begin in 2019.

Long Term Projects

Cate Park

A trail head bathroom and drinking water is identified in the Tomorrow River Trail master plan. This needs to be considered once the trail connector in Amherst Junction is completed.

Collins Park

Further park development and lake protection could occur if land contiguous to the park is purchased in the future.

Jordan Park

Campground expansion to the west of the current campground will occur when the demand exists in the future. Land contiguous to the park should be purchased for future park expansion and protection from development.

Lake Emily

Campground expansion to the west will occur once the tree planting area matures. Although limited, land contiguous to the park should be purchased for future park expansion and protection from development.

Standing Rocks

Continuation of park development should occur. Land contiguous to the park should be purchased for future park expansion and protection from development.

Linear Corridors

Connecting existing communities, parks, schools etc. needs to be planned for in the future along with “green” or river corridors that can provide recreational opportunities.

SECTION 6

TOWN OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Towns have a wide variety of park types, and have options for many types of recreation from passive to active, birding, boating, swimming, sports, hiking, and play areas for all ages. These include Town-owned parks, ranging in size from tiny pocket parks to nearly 40 acres in size, areas owned by Towns that are planned to be turned into parks in the future, and any boat maintained by Towns. There are also a private/public cooperatively owned park space and two privately owned parks open to the public. Schools own two parks with associated facilities. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintains a public educational kiosk in the Town of Grant.

Occasionally, lands are required to be dedicated to Towns for park purposes, as a function of the subdivision platting process. In some cases, these lands may be too small, access is limited, or site conditions preclude development for park purposes. In other cases, the lands are not developed or utilized as public parklands.

In more densely developing towns, such as Hull and Plover, these small parcels of dedicated parklands may meet certain playground needs, but cannot meet the need for large scale recreational activities. A long-range park plan should be developed, which identifies desirable park locations for future development. Such lands could be reserved for purchase and development as parks, in areas where there is a determined need.

The Towns listed below have chosen to participate in the County Outdoor Recreation Plan by providing a list of Town parks and the facilities they maintain, along with any improvements they would like to see for each park. Portage County is not responsible for installing or maintaining any Town recreational facilities.

Town of Carson

1. Dedicated Parkland: Locations on Green Tree, Sarafin Court, and Second Lake Drive. These lands are not Town Parks but are maintained as public open space.
 - a. Major Activities: Passive recreation.
 - b. Service area: Local community.
 - c. Interest group served: Local community.
 - d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
2. Wisconsin River Boat Launches: Boat launches are maintained on Town lands on Martin Island Drive, Sleepy Hollow Road, and Riverview Drive.
 - a. Major Activities: Access to the Wisconsin River.
 - b. Service area: Local community and Portage County boat recreation Users.
 - c. Interest group served: Boating and fishing.
 - d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

Town of Dewey

1. South Bay Beach Park 39.8 acres: joint effort between Consolidated Water Power Company and Town of Dewey. There is a boat launch with a picnic and swimming area.
 - a. Major Activities: Boating, skiing, fishing and swimming.
 - b. Service area: Town residents, County residents, recreational boat users of Lake DuBay.
 - c. Interest group served: Swimmers, boaters, water skiers, and fisherman.
 - d. Future improvements: Cooperative improvements between Consolidated Water & Power Company and Town of Dewey to work on beach improvements, landscaping / general maintenance / cleanup work, and other improvements to make the site user friendly.

2. Proposed Hiking/Skiing Trail along the Wisconsin River: This trail is envisioned as a link from the River's Edge Campground on the south to the lands owned by Consolidated Water Power Company near Lake DuBay.
 - a. Major Activities: Hiking, skiing.
 - b. Service area: The trail would service the needs of the Town of Dewey as well as provide a hiking and skiing venue for County residents.
 - c. Interest group served: Hikers, skiers, nature enthusiasts, fisherman.
 - d. Future improvements: A trail from the Rivers Edge Campground to the County Park Land. A trail from the County Park Land to the Consolidated Water Power Company Property up by Lake DuBay. A cooperative agreement with County to work toward improvements at County Park Lands along the Wisconsin River in the Town of Dewey.
3. Proposed Park Improvements to Town Owned Lands: These areas include lands owned by the Town of Dewey that have no improvements and are not currently maintained as parks. These improvements include the possibility of extending a Green Circle Trail spur into portions of the Town of Dewey.
 - a. Major Activities: Picnicking, passive recreation, hiking, biking, and skiing.
 - b. Service area: The possible parks and Green Circle Trail spur would service the needs of the Town of Dewey as well as provide a hiking and skiing venue for County residents.
 - c. Interest group served: Hikers, bikers, picnickers, skiers, nature enthusiasts, and fisherman.
 - d. Future improvements: Town improvements to lands owned by the Town of Dewey such as playground equipment, picnic tables, and other improvements to make areas useable for the general public. Creation of trails for hikers, bikers, and skiers.

Town of Eau Pleine

1. Marietta Estates: Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. Two lots totaling to 3.4 acres that have not been developed for recreational use at this time.

Town of Grant

1. Larry's Court Leisure Living Estates: Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. This 2.4 acre lot has not been developed for recreational use at this time.
2. Class 1 Trout Streams: These various streams have limited access along Town and County roads; typically a wide spot in the road or turnaround is the only access these trout streams have.
 - a. Major Activities: Trout fishing on Class 1 Streams.
 - b. Service area: Local residents to people throughout Wisconsin looking for access to trout fisheries come to the Town of Grant to use these streams.
 - c. Interest group served: Fishermen.
 - d. Future improvements: Widening of roads to accommodate a single parking spot or a turnaround to increase access to these sites.
3. Grant Elementary School Ball Diamond Complex: The Grant Elementary School at 8511 County Road WW has a one-acre playground with a hard-surface play area and playground equipment. The complex also offers six baseball diamonds with dugouts, which are maintained by the Wisconsin Rapids Youth Baseball league.
 - a. Major Activities: Playground activities, active sport, and ball fields.
 - b. Service area: Town of Grant and Wisconsin Rapids sport groups.

- c. Interest group served: Local children and residents as well as Wisconsin Rapids residents.
 - d. Future improvements: Some improvements are currently being made. The Town of Grant would like to have a pavilion built to serve the needs of ball field users.
4. 9011 County Road WW: This is a 5 acre site located just west of the Town Hall.
- a. Major Activities: None
 - b. Service area: Town of Grant.
 - c. Interest group served: Local Residents
 - d. Future improvements: A public facility / pavilion or similar service structure, and more active recreation.
5. Former Railroad Bed: The existing railroad track bed located near Lake Road, 64th Street, and Deer Road could provide opportunities to create a trail system.
- a. Major Activities: Bike, pedestrian, equestrian uses,
 - b. Service area: Local, County, and regional trail users.
 - c. Interest group served: Local residents and visitors.
 - d. Future improvements: More a study of the old rail bed to determine what it would take to utilize it, and the type of trail to be developed. Some interest from local horse owners has been shown towards creating horse trails.

Town of Hull

1. There are a total of 15.09 acres of developed parks and 2.5 acres of undeveloped parks throughout Hull. The Town of Hull and City of Stevens Point are cooperating to equip and maintain the parks in the Town that are adjacent to the City. An inventory is as follows:

Developed:

Eastwood, 2.50 acres
 Meadow Manor, 2.48 acres
 Somerset, 3.00 acres
 Jordan Acres (Sunny Crest), 0.82 ac.
 Sorenson, 1.50 acres
 Pleasant View, 1.49 acres

Undeveloped:

Trader's West, 1.00 acre
 Conifer Acres, 1.50 acres
 Oakwood Heights Subdivision, 5.6 Acres
 Plover Heights Subdivision, .78 Acres

- a. Major Activities: Playground activities.
- b. Service area: Subdivisions in the Town of Hull.
- c. Interest group served: Local residents and children.
- d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

Town of Lanark

1. Park View Acres on Badger Drive: Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. This 1.66 acre lot has not been developed for recreational use at this time.

Town of Linwood

1. Linwood Springs Subdivision: Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. This 2 acre lot has not been developed for recreational use at this time.
2. Consolidated Water Power Company Boat Landing: The landing includes one boat launch site and five parking spaces adjacent to the launch.
 - a. Major Activities: Fishing, Wisconsin River Access.
 - b. Service area: Local community and the County.
 - c. Interest group served: Fishermen, water enthusiasts.

Town of Pine Grove

1. Bancroft Lions Park: This 2.75-acre park is owned by the local Lions Club and offers one enclosed shelter, play equipment, shaded area and picnic tables. It is a well-used community park because of its central location on County Rd W in Bancroft. This park is the site of Bancroft Good Old Days held each summer.
 - a. Major Activities: Picnicking, play area, and community festivals
 - b. Service area: Town of Pine Grove.
 - c. Interest group served: K-12 children, Lions Club events, and public events.
 - d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
2. Bancroft Ball Park (Town Park): This 4.3-acre park is owned by the Town of Pine Grove and offers a softball diamond, outdoor toilet facilities, playground equipment and shaded area. The American Legion owns a shelter-house and concession stand adjacent to the ball park.
 - a. Major Activities: Active sports, play area, and community events
 - b. Service area: Town of Pine Grove.
 - c. Interest group served: K-12 Children, American Legion events, public events.
 - d. Future improvements: As identified in the Town Comprehensive Plan.
 1. Identify all survey stakes
 2. Create a map of all items that are in the park.
 3. Create a sand volleyball court
 4. Build a shelter
 5. Install new playground equipment
 6. Swing set, Slide system, Jungle gym
 7. Build tennis/basketball court combination
 8. Build horseshoe pits
 9. Build shuffleboard system
 10. Build walking/exercising trail around park
 11. Build railroad historical marker

Town of Plover

1. Bluebird Park: Located in the Bluebird Subdivision, between I-39, Cardinal Drive, and Bluebird Drive. Facilities include an area where both football field goal posts and soccer goals have been provided and there are 2 picnic tables, a 3 section swingset, 5 disc golf stations, and a sandlot softball field with a backstop. A great deal of work has recently been done to this park. A few years ago, several area residents, businesses, and Veolia worked with the Town to purchase equipment and renovate the Park.
 - a. Major Activities: Active sports and passive recreation.
 - b. Service area: Town of Plover.
 - c. Interest group served: Town residents.
 - d. Future improvements: Increase number of disc golf stations and add additional playground equipment.
2. Forest Lake Park: Located between Forest Lake Drive and State Highway 54.
 - a. Major Activities: None, the site is unimproved and undeveloped at this time.
 - b. Service area: None identified at this time.
 - c. Interest group served: None identified at this time.
 - d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
3. River Heights Subdivision and Michael Court.

Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. This 1.57 acre lot has not been developed for recreational use at this time.

Town of Sharon

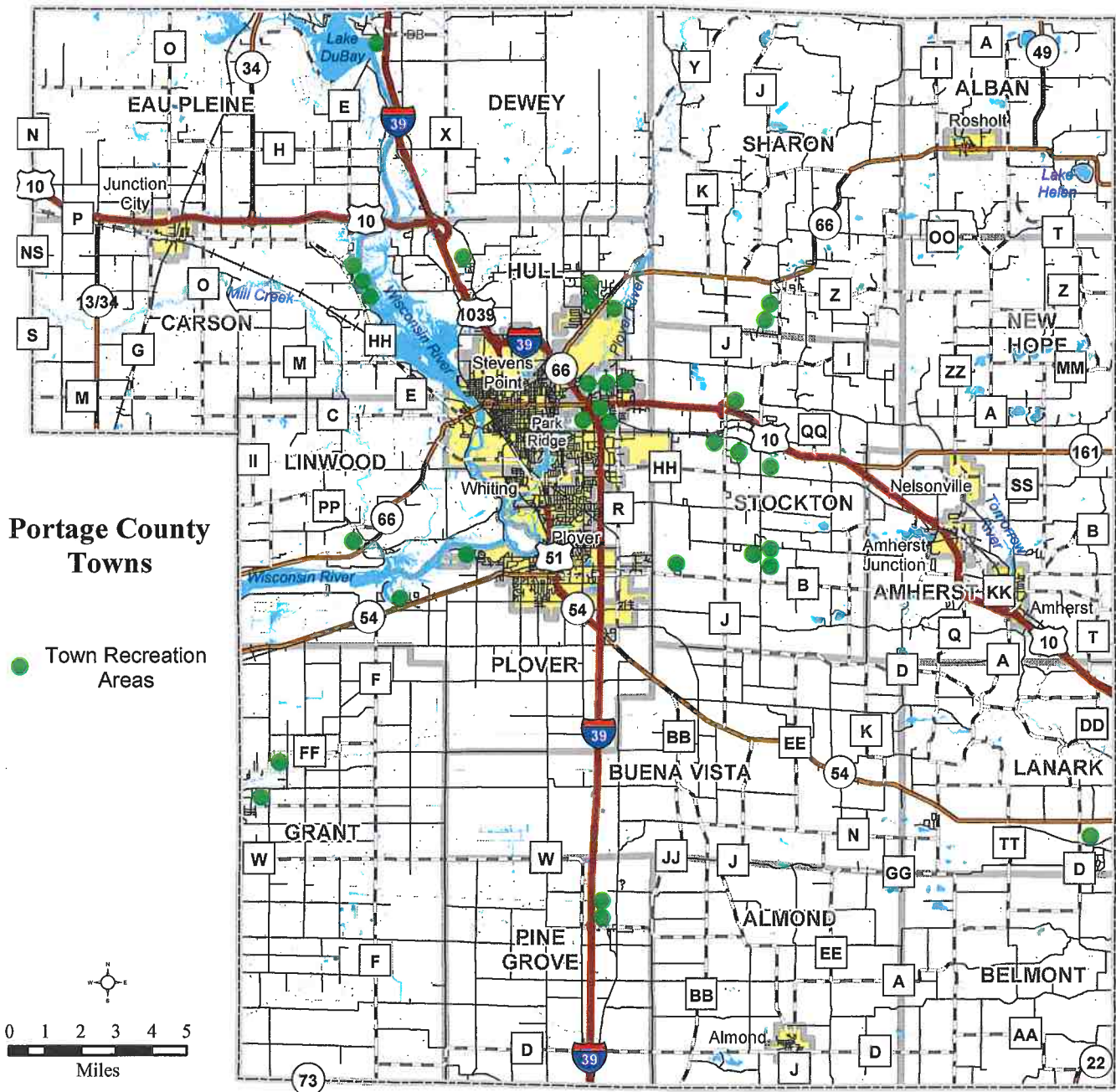
1. Boulder Heights Addition on High Ridge Road: Lands dedicated to the public for use as recreational areas through the development process. This 2.1 acre lot has not been developed for recreational use at this time.
2. Polonia - Sacred Heart School located in Polonia, an unincorporated settlement located in north-central Portage County, along State Highway 66. Polonia is located on a major commuting route to Stevens Point and it functions as a service center for the Town of Sharon. Major activities at this facility include ball playing and a children's play area. These school grounds serve as a neighborhood park with a ½ mile service radius.
 - a. Major Activities: Playground equipment, 2.4 acre play field and baseball diamond with backstop.
 - b. Service area: Local neighborhood of Polonia and Town of Sharon.
 - c. Interest group served: Local residents.
 - d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

Town of Stockton

Platted Parklands, these are lands that are dedicated to the Town for park purposes, as part of the subdivision platting process. These parkland dedications are to provide recreational spaces for the communities around them. In 2002, the Town of Stockton amended their subdivision ordinance from each subdivision having individual parks to develop one central larger park to invest in the needs of the community. Parklands dedicated to the needs of the Town of Stockton via the platting process include:

1. Arnott Centennial: This 0.6-acre park, located at 4487 County Road J, is a small play lot serving local residents of the surrounding Arnott area.
 - a. Major Activities: This park serves as a fenced-in playground area.
 - b. Service area: It serves the surrounding residents of Arnott.
 - c. Equipment: Sign, a swing set, a slide, a basketball court and a picnic table.
2. Buckhorn Park: This 1.22-acre park, located at 6270 Leroy Lane, is a small play lot serving local residents of the surrounding subdivision.
 - a. Major Activities: The park consists of a playground and basketball court.
 - b. Service area: It serves the subdivision from which it was created.
 - c. Equipment: Sign, a swing set, a slide, a teeter-totter, a basketball court and a picnic table.
3. Country Beautiful: This 5.2-acre park, located at 7129 Country Beautiful Lane, serves the local community as a passive natural environment.
 - a. Major Activities: This park is a passive natural area for walking and picnicking.
 - b. Service area: It serves the surrounding Country Beautiful subdivision.
 - c. Equipment: Sign and a small parking area.
4. Hoffman's Custer Square: This 1.75-acre park, located at 1034 Custer Square, provides a small play lot and some land for passive activities for residents of the subdivision.
 - a. Major Activities: This park is a passive area and also serves as a playground.
 - b. Service area: This park serves as a playground for the surrounding subdivision.
 - c. Equipment: Sign, a lending library, a swing set, a slide, a basketball court and a picnic table.
5. Lone Pine Park: This 0.6-acre park, located at 6775 Oak Tree Road, is a small play lot serving local residents of the surrounding subdivision.
 - a. Major Activities: The park serves as a fenced-in playground area and a basketball court.

- b. Service area: It serves as a playground for the subdivision from which it was created.
 - c. Equipment: Sign, a swing set with four swings and a slide, a basketball court and a picnic table.
- 6. Town of Stockton Park: This 34-acre area includes the municipal buildings which include the Town Hall, the Fire/Rescue/EMS Department, the storage buildings and the Town garage with approximately 25 acres dedicated to Town of Stockton Park. This larger park was developed for activities that could not be provided by local subdivision parks.
 - a. Major Activities: A picnic shelter with tables, a 1-mile walking trail, playground equipment, a 9-hole disc golf course, a pickleball court, a basketball court, a sledding hill, a volleyball court and youth soccer fields.
 - b. Service area: This park is designed to serve all residents of the Town of Stockton.
 - c. Equipment: Sign, benches, tables, a lending library, a gazebo, barbeque grills, a porta potty, a parking lot and a pond.
- 7. Arnott Lions Park: This 11.5-acre area is owned and maintained by the Arnott Lions Club (chartered in 1975). It is located at 6867 4th Street, Stevens Point.
 - a. Major Activities: The Park provides two shelters and a large (100'x200') multipurpose building along with a softball diamond, restrooms, horseshoe pits, kid's playground and a picnic area that can be used by individual families or small groups at no charge. The Park is also divided into two areas that can be rented out individually or totally. The multipurpose building is rented out for campers, boats and other vehicles during the winter (October – April).
 - b. Service area: Local neighborhood and Town of Stockton residents. In addition, anyone can rent the areas for one day or a weekend.
 - c. Interest group served: Groups needing to rent open space, picnickers, and children.



SECTION 7

VILLAGE OUTDOOR RECREATION

VILLAGE PARK SYSTEMS AND FUTURE IMPROVEMENT ISSUES

Outdoor recreation demands at the village level can be expected to center around softball, tennis, and swimming, as well as skating and other winter sports. The villages should strive to provide lands and facilities for these and other popular recreational activities. The demand for new neighborhood/community parks is expected to be the greatest in the most rapidly growing villages, such as Plover and Amherst, which will likely require a full range of community recreational facilities.

Invitation for Participation in the 2020-2025 Outdoor Recreation Plan

Portage County has maintained a policy of acting as a lead agency in the outdoor recreation planning process. As such, the County has offered to include in its 2020-2025 Outdoor Recreation Plan update, those communities which do not already have State approved plans. The Villages of Plover and Whiting have prepared individual outdoor recreation plans, which are available separately (improvement programs not included here).

Those villages which are participating in the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan or which have an approved plan of their own will be eligible for State grant-in-aid funds for park acquisition and development. Portage County is not responsible for installing or maintaining any Village recreation facilities.

VILLAGE PARK INVENTORY AND VILLAGE OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS, 2020-2025

Park facilities and possible future upgrades for the rural Villages of Portage County (Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, Junction City, and Rosholt) are listed and described below. A Village location map is also included. The City of Stevens Point and Villages of Plover and Whiting have their own Outdoor Recreation Plans; consult these documents for information on these municipalities. The Village of Park Ridge does not have any park or recreation facilities within its boundaries.

Village of Almond

Almond is located in the Town of Almond, in south-central Portage County. The Village population has shown moderate growth over the past fifteen years, with a current population of 448. Almond serves as the service center of the area and, as such, has a moderate potential for growth.

1. Almond Grade and High School (grades 5-12) – is located on a sloping, wooded site. The recreation facilities at the school site consist of a 1.1 acre play area for young children, separated from a 0.3 acre play area for young children.
 - a. Major activities: Softball and children's play.
 - b. Facilities: Softball diamond, two basketball hoops and children's play equipment.
 - c. Service area: School district, Village, and Town residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
2. Athletic Field – is a 5-acre facility located north of town and is maintained as an addition to the high school program.
 - a. Major activities: High school sports, general public use.
 - b. Facilities: 2 baseball fields and 1 football field with bleachers.
 - c. Service area: School Active sports participants and spectators.

- d. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
- 3. Cty Rd A Park – 0.7-acre park located at Cty Rd A and Division Street contains 2 basketball hoops and ice skating during the winter.
 - a. Major activities: Active recreational use.
 - b. Facilities: 2 basketball hoops and winter ice skating rink.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants and winter enthusiasts.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
- 4. Lions Village Park – is a 4 acre recreation area directly adjacent to the Athletic Field. Due to its location, the two facilities can be used as one.
 - a. Major activities: Active and passive recreation and group get-togethers.
 - b. Facilities: Tennis court, picnic facilities, a shelter, and parking are available in this area.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants and group gatherings.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
- 5. Main Street Open Space (proposed) – consists of three vacant lots owned by the Village located just south of the fire station on Main Street.
 - a. Major activities: Support of downtown events.
 - b. Facilities: None at the present time.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Business owners and village residents.
 - e. Future improvements: The area has been identified by the Village Plan Commission as a potential location of a small park in the future. When this occurs, the space will need to be cleared for use and infrastructure for use put into place. This could include park furniture, playground equipment, and a shelter.
- 6. Veteran's Park – 1.5-acre open space located on County Road D contains a picnic bench and shelter.
 - a. Major activities: Group get togethers and passive recreation.
 - b. Facilities: A shelter for gatherings and picnic benches.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Group assemblies.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

Village of Amherst

Amherst is a village of 1,035 people located in eastern Portage County. The Village, which has experienced moderate population growth since 1970, has potential as a rural growth center due to its location on the four-lane USH 10 and development of the Amherst Business Park. Also, the scenic and recreational resources of the region increase the potential for the growth of Amherst as a service center.

- 1. Amherst Grade and High School – is located on the north end of the Village. This facility provides approximately 20 acres of recreation space.
 - a. Major Activities: Baseball, football, and basketball, track & field, soccer.
 - b. Facilities: Playground equipment, 5 picnic tables, 10 basketball courts, 1 baseball diamond, 1 softball diamond, 1 football field, all-weather running track.
 - c. Service area: School district and the Village.

- d. Interest group served: Active recreation and spectators.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
2. Guyant Park – Located by Scout Hall and used primarily for the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and the VFW and American Legion. It is also available for the Community.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation, scouting activities, and VFW and American Legion events.
 - b. Facilities: Picnic tables and park benches.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst residents and associated clubs.
 - d. Interest group served: Village Residents, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, VFW, and American Legion activities.
 - e. Future improvements: Park and recreation development near Scout Hall.
3. Hughes View – a 0.5-acre property located on Pond Street adjoining Mill Pond. Provides a view of Mill Pond.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation.
 - b. Facilities: Urban wood lot (steep and shrub).
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Walkers, picnickers.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
4. Lettie Jensen Library – Green space used as “public lawn” by Village residents, located on Main Street, south of the high school.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation and outdoor library events.
 - b. Facilities: Library facilities and maintained grass area.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Library users.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
5. McKinley Court Park Area – This is a small green space approximately 1/4 acres in size. It also serves as a detention basin during really wet weather or winter thaw. In general, the green space services as usable pocket park from spring until fall.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation and neighborhood sports.
 - b. Facilities: A bench and a garbage can.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
6. Mill Street Public Access – During the spring of 1985 the Village obtained the services of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps to help create an attractive public access area on the west bank of the Tomorrow River, just below the dam. Trees and brush were removed, riprap was installed to stabilize the west bank of the Tomorrow River. Today, many people take advantage of the aesthetic open space provided by the Mill Street public access, which is owned by Village of Amherst.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation and close access to the Amherst Mill pond.
 - b. Facilities: Picnic tables.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst.
 - d. Interest group served: Picnickers and, walkers.
 - e. Future improvements: Playground equipment for parks. Development plan to enhance Amherst Mill Pond, address algae, weed and siltation problems.
 - f. Future improvements: Playground equipment for parks.

7. Nelson Park – lies along the west band of the Tomorrow River in central Amherst.
 - a. Major activities: Picnicking and softball. Serves as an assembly point for snowmobilers when coming to the Village.
 - b. Facilities: Nine picnic tables, one enclosed pavilion, play equipment and lighted ball diamond, park benches, swing set, additional playground equipment. See General Village Location Map.
 - c. Service area: Village.
 - d. Interest group served: Passive and active recreation for all ages.
 - e. Future improvements: Provide a drinking fountain in Nelson Park.
8. Portage County Fairgrounds – a 32 acre facility located across (west) of USH 10 in the Village of Amherst. While this is not a Village facility, it does provide open space for the residents of the Village.
 - a. Major activities: Fair and exhibition grounds.
 - b. Facilities: 1 mile track, viewing stands, stables and exhibition buildings.
 - c. Service area: Countywide.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
9. Prairie View Street – 21 acres of land adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Facility that have been identified as possible future park land.
 - a. Major activities: Potential park area capable of supporting a large recreational area.
 - b. Facilities: None at this time.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst.
 - d. Interest group served: Village residents.
 - e. Future improvements: Athletic fields on Village property, to include two regulation ball diamonds, a soccer field, skateboard park, bathroom facilities and concessions stand.
10. Public Boat Landing – eastern shore of the Mill Pond.
 - a. Major activities: Boat landing and picnicking.
 - b. Facilities: Boat landing, 2 picnic tables and trash receptacles.
 - c. Service area: Village.
 - d. Interest group served: Passive and active recreation for all ages.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
11. Tree Nursery – The Village tree nursery, with flower garden, is located near the wastewater treatment facility. The nursery is managed by the Tree Board and provides stock for street trees and other municipal landscaping uses. The Village of Amherst has been designated as a “Tree City” as part of the Tree City USA program since 1997.
 - a. Major activities: Provision of trees for Village needs.
 - b. Facilities: Tree nursery.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst and its residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Village residents.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
12. Village Hall – located by the Mill Pond Dam and has a nice sidewalk along the pond leading to Main Street.
 - a. Major activities: Fishing, kayaking, canoeing and picnicking.
 - b. Facilities: A dock, a pavilion, park benches and picnic tables.

- c. Service area: Village of Amherst and boaters using the Mill Pond.
 - d. Interest group served: Passive users, active sports participants, boating related users and Village Residents.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
13. Water Tower Park – a 1.3-acre facility located at the corner of Lincoln Street and Clinton’s Court on the Village’s west side. Residential growth near the park suggests a possible need to add facilities in the future.
- a. Major activities: Picnicking and passive recreation.
 - b. Facilities: Picnic tables and benches.
 - c. Service area: Neighborhood.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants and spectators.
 - e. Future improvements: Playground equipment for parks. Poison ivy in the wooded portion of the park should first be eradicated.
14. Well #3 Grounds – This Village municipal water well site, located on Pond Street, contains 5 acres of land that should remain as open space.
- a. Major activities: Passive recreation.
 - b. Facilities: None at this time.
 - c. Service area: Village of Amherst.
 - d. Interest group served: Users of open space in the Village
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time
15. Wish List of Village Park Projects – These projects represent the amenities the Village would like to accomplish should the opportunity arise with no specific order of priority.
- Restoration of retaining walls along the Tomorrow River between Mill and Washington Streets.
 - Develop walking trails along the Tomorrow River within the Village boundaries.
 - Develop bike trail between Amherst and Amherst Junction.
 - Develop neighborhood park in northeast corner of Village.
 - Bike trail from Amherst to Cate Park to link to Tomorrow River State Trail.
 - Improvement of bathroom and hospitality facilities as well as parking facilities.
 - Remove Village garages and develop green space adjacent to spillway and Tomorrow River

Village of Amherst Junction

Amherst Junction is a village of 377 people, which has shown a decline in population since the 2000 Census. The Village has moderate potential for growth due to its function as a service center and excellent highway accessibility. Amherst Junction is located in eastern Portage County. Lake Emily County Park borders the western Village limits. The Tomorrow River State Trail also bisects the Village, passing through adjacent north of the business district.

1. Nelson Park – 3.4-acre Nelson Park is the Villages primary recreation facility. This park lies about ¼ of a mile from the business district.
 - a. Major activities: Softball and baseball.
 - b. Facilities: Ball diamond, volleyball court, playground equipment, lodges for rent, parking lot.
 - c. Service area: Village-community wide.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants and spectators.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

Village of Junction City

Junction City is located in the northwest portion of the County. Junction City has a current population of 439 and has shown a stable population over the past ten years. The trend for the future would seem to be a moderate decline.

1. John F. Kennedy School – is located to the north of the Village on an 18 acre site. The children’s play area is equipped with a variety of modern playground equipment.
 - a. Major activities: Softball and basketball. Currently houses a Boys and Girls Club location and its activities.
 - b. Facilities: Playfield and gym.
 - c. Service area: School district.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants.
 - e. Future improvements: Erect a gazebo.
2. Village Park – is a 43-acre facility, large enough to serve the needs of the entire Village and surrounding area. The tree cover lends an excellent park atmosphere to this facility.
 - a. Major activities: Picnicking, softball, baseball, tennis, horseshoes, and bird watching.
 - b. Facilities: Picnic tables, all weather lodge, seasonal pavilion, sanitary facilities, 3 baseball diamonds (1 lighted), bleachers, scoreboards, concession stand, community center, 2 lighted tennis courts, lighted horseshoe pits designed for tournament play, water tower, play field, skating rink, walking trails and pet area.
 - c. Service area: Countywide.
 - d. Interest group served: Active and passive recreation for all ages.
 - e. Future improvements: Replace old playground equipment and upgrade skating rink, develop 7-acre newly added wood lot with trails, picnic tables, and benches.
3. Wish List of Village Park Projects – These projects represent the amenities the Village would like to accomplish should the opportunity arise with no specific order of priority.
 - Develop newly acquired wood lot area.
 - Extend walking trail.
 - Plant trees.

Village of Nelsonville

Nestled along the banks of the Tomorrow River, Nelsonville is a village of 155 people, located in eastern Portage County. Varying greatly in character, size, and location, the village’s public spaces offer unique settings that contribute to the charm and nature of the community.

1. Nelsonville Park – Located in the center of the village, Nelsonville Park is a 1.8-acre playground with vintage equipment and classic recreational infrastructure.
 - a. Major activities: Tennis, basketball, winter sledding, and general playground activities.
 - b. Facilities: 1 tennis court (lighted), sandbox, swing set, and sledding hill.
 - c. Service area: Local residents and visitors.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants.
 - e. Future improvements: Tennis Courts: new net, resurface court, improve lighting systems. Existing playground: upgrade equipment, safety improvements to merry-go-round, install a shelter area.
2. The Village of Nelsonville Sanctuary – The recently acquired 37-acre parkland is located on County Rd SS along the Tomorrow River. This historic site of the Loberg Farm and

Homestead remained untouched for nearly 60 years. Previously, the land was also home to Wisconsin's second artificially-lit baseball diamond and a nine-hole golf course. The property supports a variety of biodiversity including wetlands, prairies, and forested uplands.

- a. Major activities: Hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing and snowshoeing.
 - b. Facilities: Hiking trail and access to Tomorrow River.
 - c. Service area: Local Residents and visitors.
 - d. Interest group served: Natural preservationists.
 - e. Future improvements: Trail markers, kiosks, signage, parking lot, boardwalk, invasive species control, and bridge.
3. Lake Elaine Swimming Area – This 17-acre lake is located on the east side of the village and neighbors YMCA Camp Glacier Hollow.
 - a. Major activities: Swimming, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing.
 - b. Facilities: Swimming beach.
 - c. Service area: Local Residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Water enthusiasts.
 - e. Future improvements: Erosion prevention, beach area improvements, and swim platform.
4. Rising Star Mill – The location is .4 acres in size and includes the Rising Star Mill. The Mill serves as a museum and event space. It can be rented for events depending upon the schedule. The site is actually owned the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources but is open for use by the Village. There is an open space area with picnic tables located along the Tomorrow River.
 - a. Major activities: Rental to groups or organizations for events and passive recreation and picnicking.
 - b. Facilities: The Rising Star Mill Museum and a few picking tables outside.
 - c. Service area: Village residents.
 - d. Interest group served: Group events and passive users in the maintained grass area outside along the river.
 - e. Future improvements: Kayak and canoe launch.
5. Public Access to Tomorrow River – River access on 0.37 acres, in the Welton Subdivision.
 - a. Major activities: Access to the Tomorrow River.
 - b. Facilities: A 60 foot access to the River. With a six car parking lot is located adjacent to the access area.
 - c. Service area: Countywide.
 - d. Interest group served: Boating and fishing enthusiasts.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.

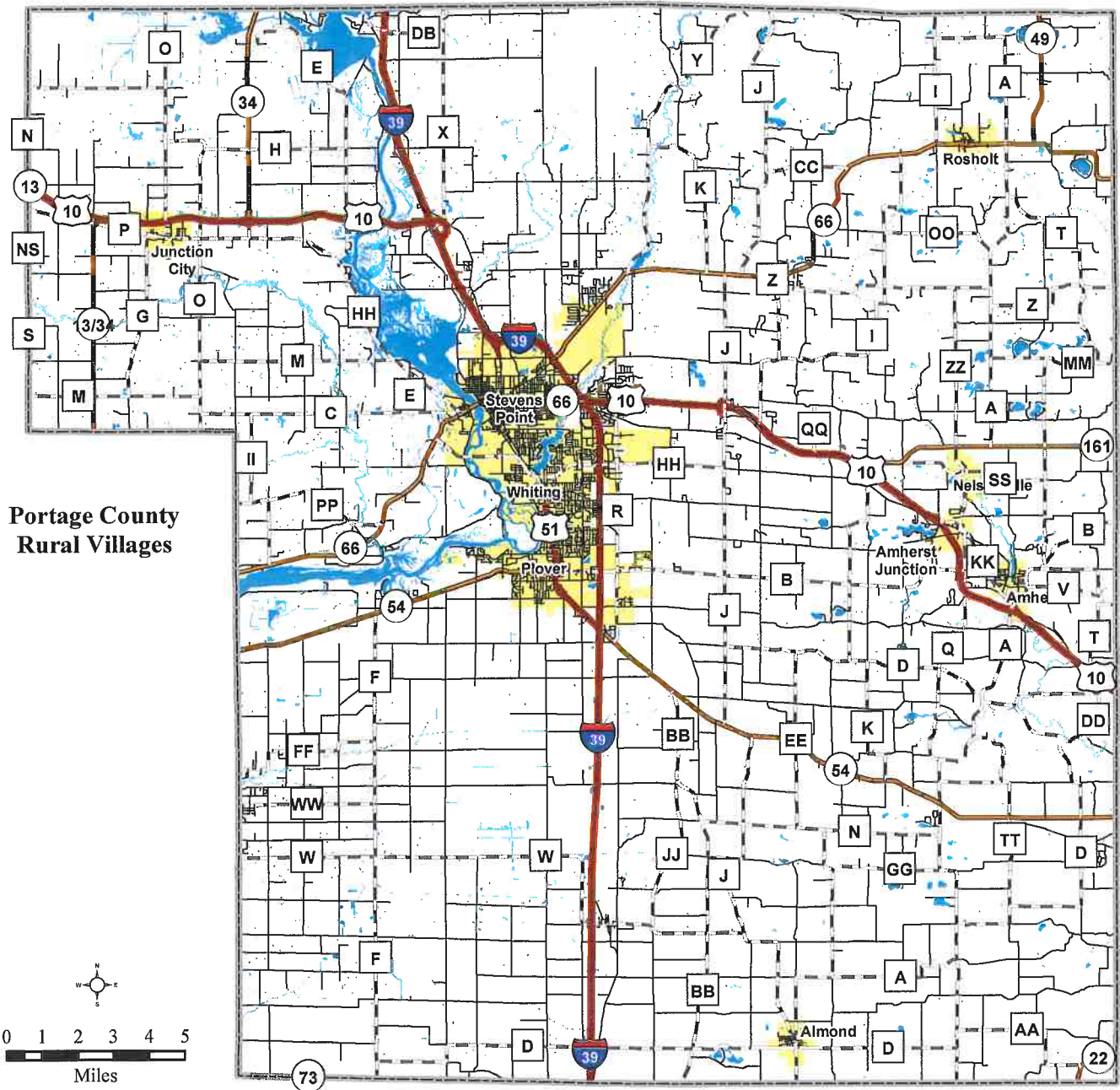
Village of Rosholt

Rosholt is a small village of 506 people located in northeast Portage County. The Village, which is a rural service center for the surrounding Town of Alban, has experienced a minor population decline since 2000. It is expected that the population level may stabilize or increase slightly with the continued trend of rural, non-farm housing. An elementary school and high school are located in Rosholt.

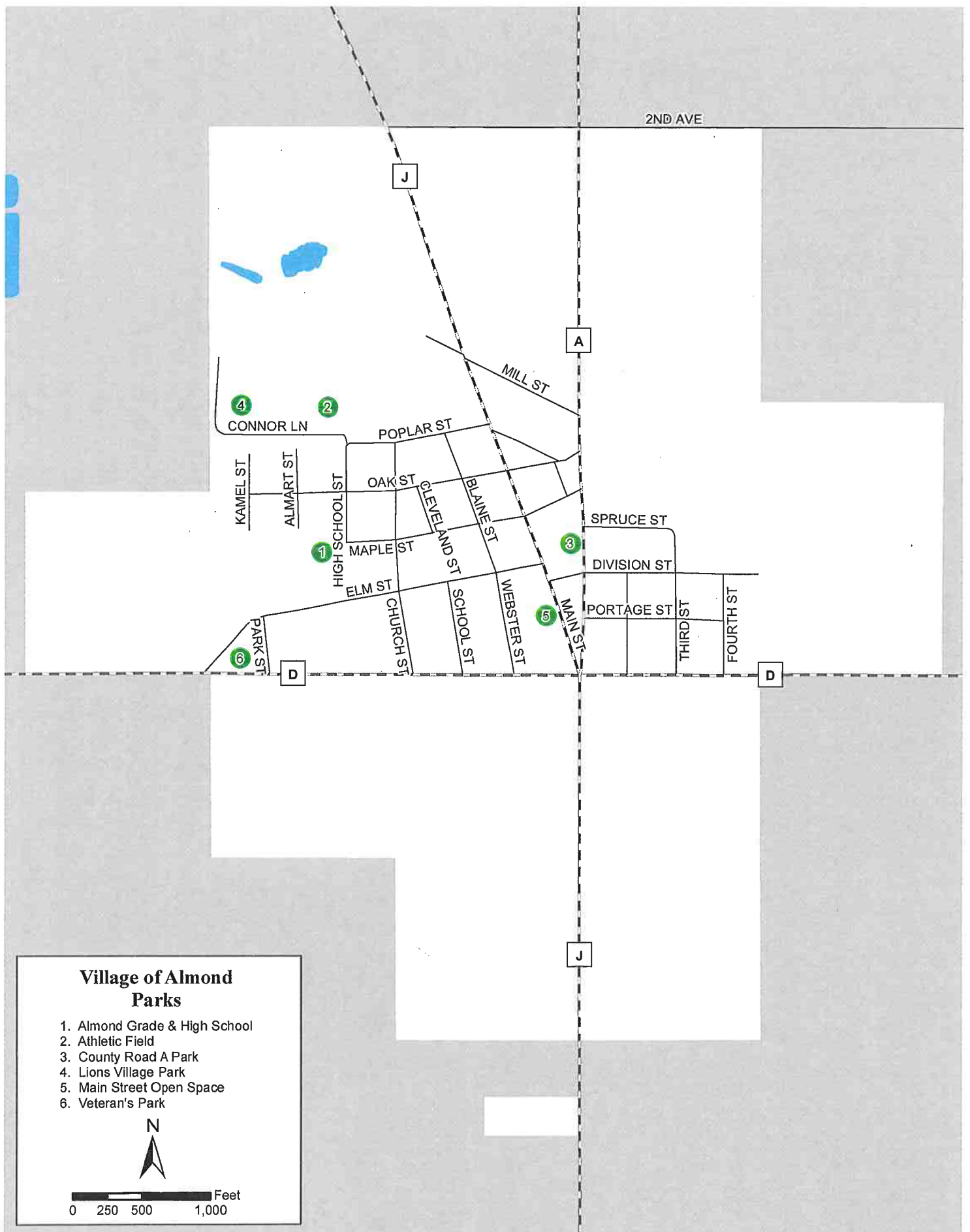
1. Depot Park – This park is a 2.3-acre facility located adjacent to the American Legion Hall which is often rented for family events. The name of the park is derived from the train depot that previously stood on the site.

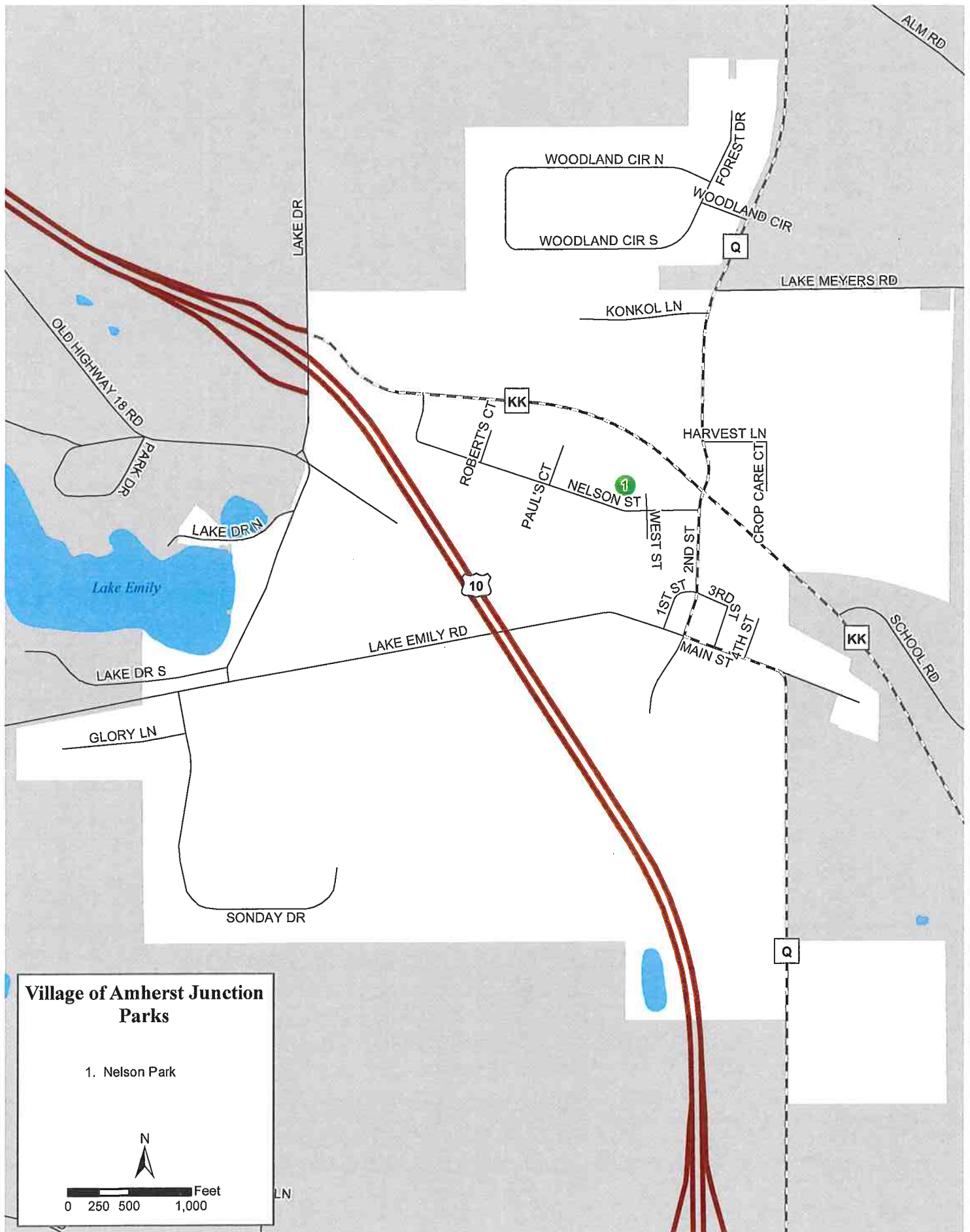
- a. Major activities: Basketball and ice skating.
 - b. Facilities: Basketball court, playground equipment, and ice-skating rink with warming house.
 - c. Service area: Village wide.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports.
 - e. Future improvements: None at this time.
2. Fairgrounds – These grounds are located on a 26-acre site on the northern edge of the Village. These grounds are owned by the Village and leased by the Rosholt Community Fair Association. The Fair Association owns the modern cattle barn and adjacent parking lot. The facility is available for rent for community events or family celebrations.
 - a. Major activities: Annual fair- exhibits, stage productions, concessions and softball, truck and tractor pulls.
 - b. Facilities: Fairground facilities include exhibit space, stage productions, Christmas enchanted forest and lights display, concessions and softball. Community Building, bathrooms, parking, concession stands bleachers, baseball diamond, horseshoe pits, camper/boat storage, lighted sled hill, Saw Mill and Pioneer Buildings including a school house. Annual Events include an Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Fireworks, Thresheree, Portage County Fair, Demolition Derby, Truck & Tractor Pull and Blue Grass Festival.
 - c. Service area: Countywide.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
 - e. Future improvements: The Fair Association has a better maintenance plan for the buildings and a marketing plan to generate public interest in utilizing the facility for special or family events.
3. Footbridge Park – This park is a 1.5-acre facility alongside Flume Creek. A great spot for Craw-dad fishing and open space for recreational sports!
 - a. Major activities: Walking,
 - b. Facilities: A pedestrian bridge over Flume Creek, picnic tables, and a merry-go-round.
 - c. Service area: Village of Rosholt.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
4. Historic Marker – The marker is located on the site of the old grist mill commemorating the birthplace of Rosholt. The site is small, with room for only one car. There are no tables. The site provides access to Flume Creek Pond.
 - a. Major activities: Historic site.
 - b. Facilities: Historic marker; ~~two benches located along the pond.~~
 - c. Service area: Village.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time.
5. Lions Park – is a 1.5 acre facility beside flume creek pond.
 - a. Major activities: Picnicking, children’s play area, fishing, and passive recreation.
 - b. Facilities: Has a picnic shelter, grills, playground equipment, fishing dock and dam.
 - c. Service area: Village of Rosholt.
 - d. Interest group served: General public.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time; completed a major dam renovation in 2018.

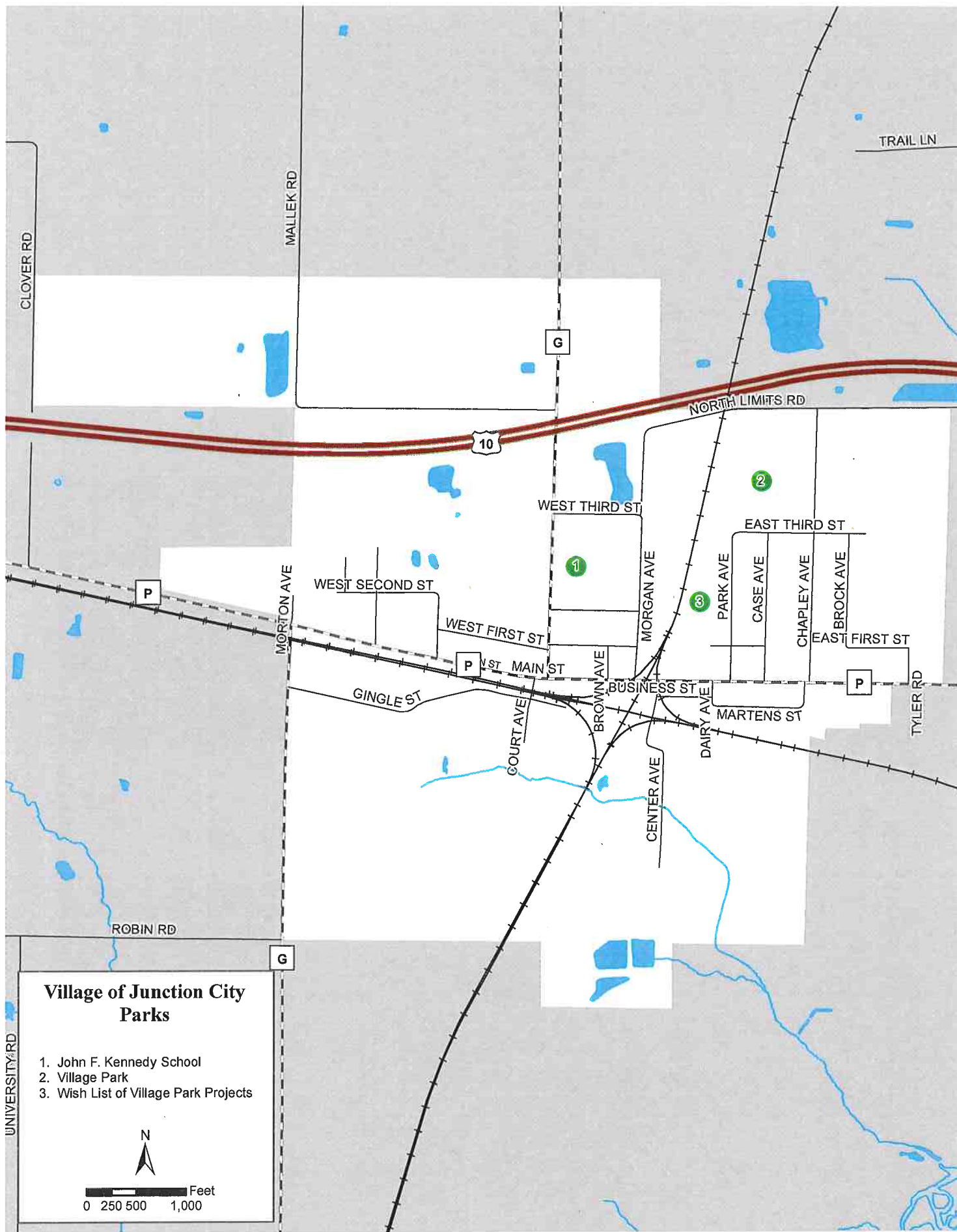
6. Rosholt Grade and High School – centrally located, with 20 acres of recreational space.
- a. Major activities: Active sports, baseball, football and tennis.
 - b. Facilities: Football field, baseball field, 2 softball fields, 2 tennis courts with practice board (lighted), practice fields, ¼ mile running track and playground equipment.
 - c. Service area: School district.
 - d. Interest group served: Active sports participants and spectators of organized high school sports.
 - e. Future improvements: None identified at this time

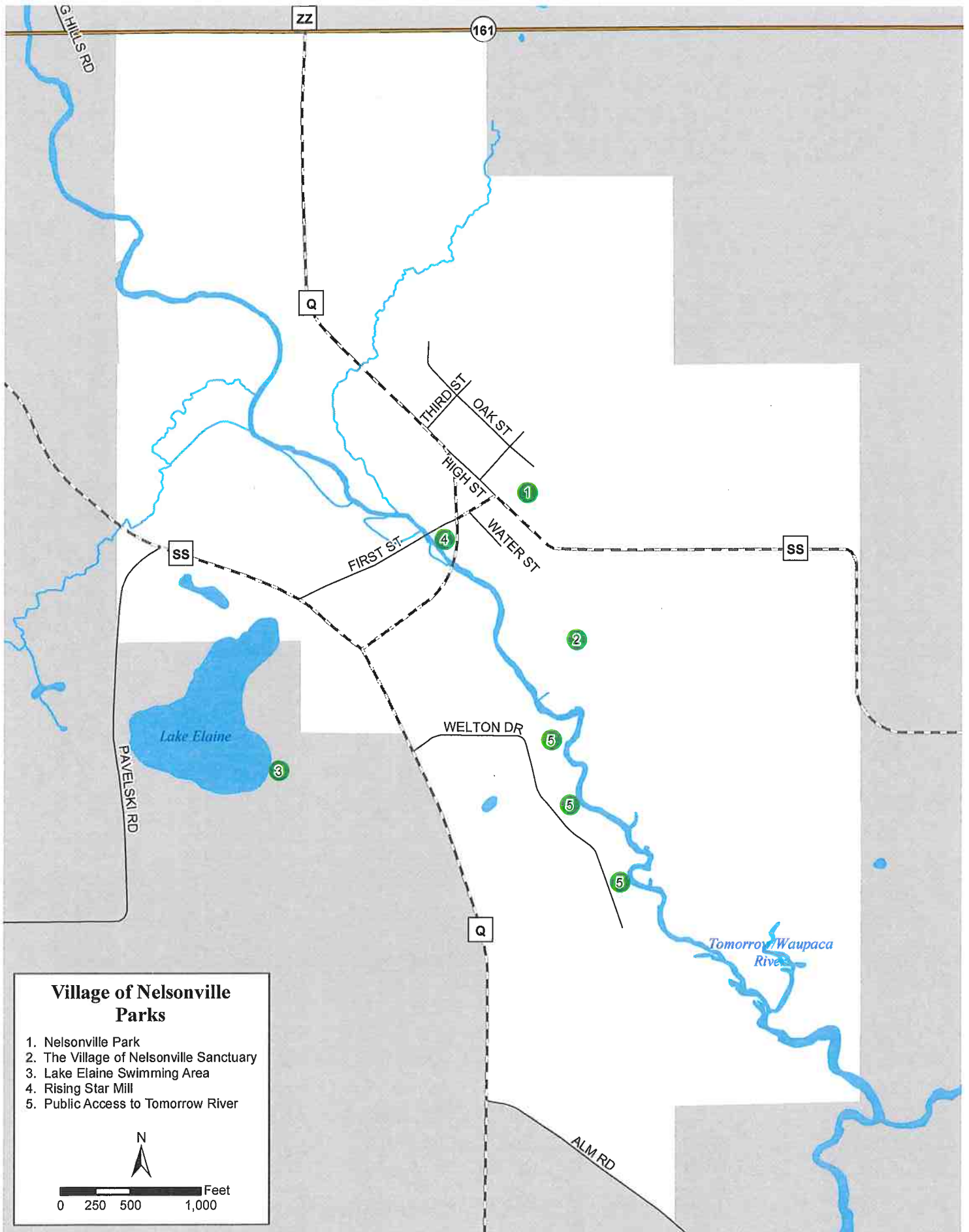


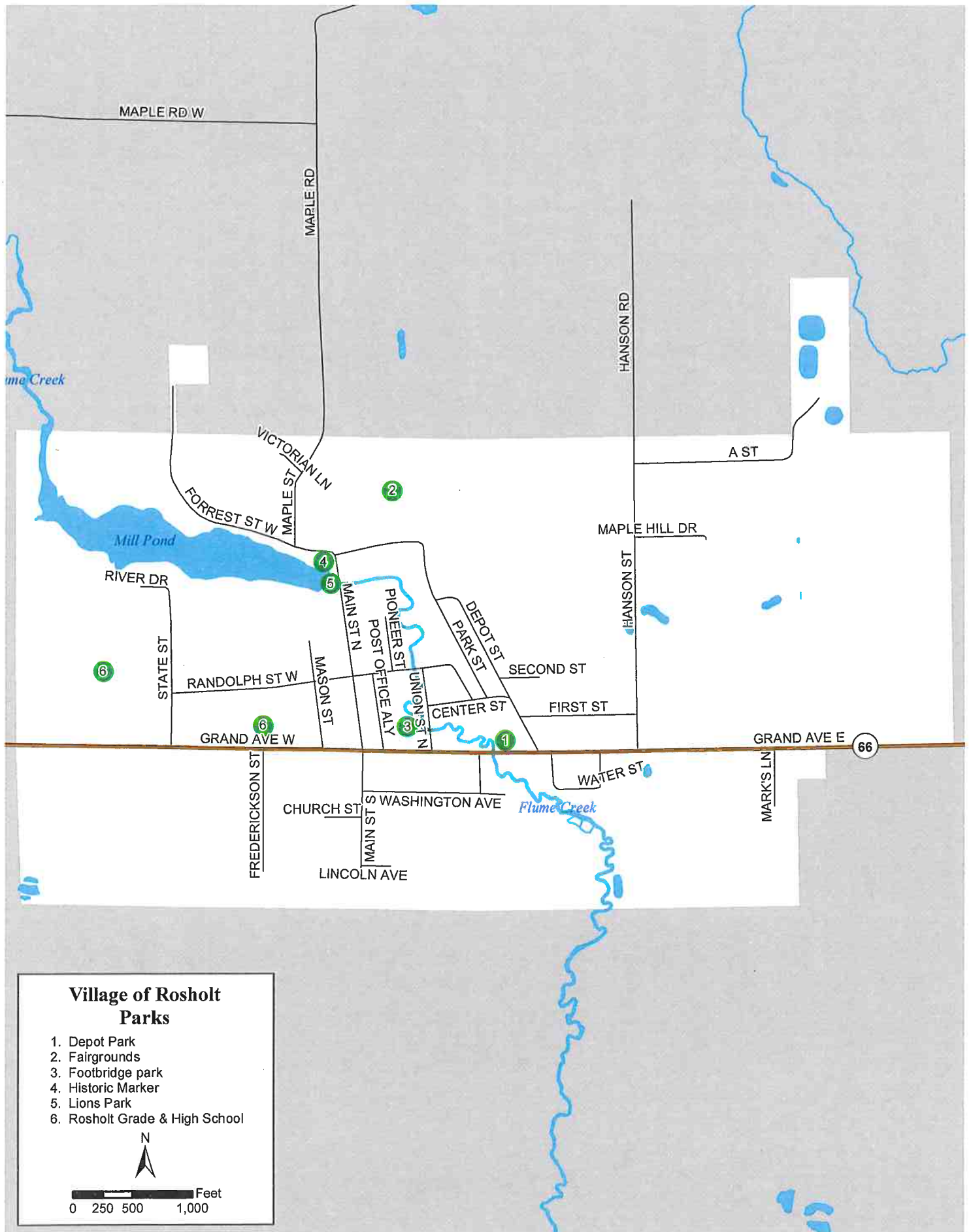
Portage County
Rural Villages











APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Financial Assistance Programs

Financial Assistance Programs Administered Through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). All programs are administered by the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance unless otherwise noted.

Stewardship Local Assistance Grants - Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Funds are available to assist local communities acquiring and developing public outdoor recreation areas as per s.23.09 (20), Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and Indian Tribes with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are eligible to apply by May 1 of each year on forms provided by the DNR Regional Community Specialists. There is up to a 50% local match required. Awards are granted on a competitive basis. Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas are eligible projects. Priority is given to the acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreation land exists. Contact your DNR Regional Community Services Specialist.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Funds are available to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Statutes. Counties, towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department of Natural Resources.

- ATV trails available for spring, summer, and fall riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$450 per mile).
- ATV trails available for winter riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$100 per mile).
- Development of ATV trails and areas may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Maintenance of ATV intensive use areas may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of eligible costs.

The DNR allocates funds in accordance with the following ranked priorities:

1. Maintenance of existing, approved trails, areas, and routes.
2. Liability insurance acquisition.
3. Easement acquisition.
4. Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails.
5. Land acquisition and development of new ATV trails and areas.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

Funds are available as per s.23.22(9), Wis. Stats. and NR 64.15, Wis. Adm. Code. A county must file Intent to Patrol, Form 8700-59, by June 1 of each year which lists the authority under which the all-terrain vehicle patrol will operate. On or about April 1 of each year the department will forward one set of forms to each patrol that has Intent to Patrol on file. The appropriate official completes the forms covering the patrol expenses for the preceding 12 month period of July 1 to June 30. Two sets of these forms are to be sent to the Regional Recreation Safety Warden on or before September 1. Notice of Intent to Patrol and Claim forms are provided by the Department

Bureau of Law Enforcement. Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of ch. 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of Chapter NR 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials, and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12% annually on all equipment over \$100 except ATV's, which is figured at the rate of 20% annually. Contact Thomas N. Thoresen at (608) 266-7820.

County Conservation Aids

Funds are available to carry out program of fish or wildlife management projects as per s.23.09 (12), Wis. Stats. and NR 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties and recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match. Projects related to providing improved fish or wildlife habitat or projects related to wildlife and fish management are eligible. Projects which enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting facilities have priority. Contact your West Central, Regional Community Services Specialist.

County Forest Acreage Payments

Aids are paid to towns in lieu of taxes of 30 cents per acre of lands enrolled under the County Forest Law per year as per s. 20.370(5)(bv) and 28.11(8)(a), Wis. Stats. Towns in counties having lands enrolled under the County Forest Law are eligible to receive payments from the Bureau of Forestry. Towns receive payment based on acreage in the town enrolled under the County Forest Law. Each town determines how payment will be used. Payments are made as soon as possible after April 20 of each year. Jeffrey Barkley at (608) 264-9217.

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

Funds are available to encourage county snowmobile patrols to function as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of State Statute 350 as per s. 350.12(4)(a)(4), Wis. Stats. and NR 50.12, 20.370(4)(ft), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before June 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats., at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate are eligible. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials, and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 20% annually on all equipment over \$1,000. Contact Thomas N. Thoresen at (608) 266-7820.

Municipal Dam Grants for Dam Maintenance Repair, Modification, Abandonment, and Removal

Funds are available to municipalities and public inland lake districts to conduct dam maintenance, repair, modification, abandonment, and removal as per s. 31.385, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages and public inland lake protection districts that have received an order under s. 31.19(5), Wis. Stats., to repair or abandon a dam are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. Dam repair, reconstruction, modification or abandonment and removal are eligible projects. Funding priority is to be scored based on the following program criteria, as defined in the application: Dam hazard rating, land use controls in place in the hydraulic shadow, repair costs and financial need of the municipality. Dam repair/reconstruction/modification project grant awards will cover a maximum grant award of 50% of the first \$400,000 of eligible project costs and 25%

of the next \$800,000 of eligible project costs per project. Dam abandonment and removal project grant awards will cover 100 percent of the first \$400,000 of eligible project costs. Completed applications must be received by the Department by September 15 of each year. Contact Eileen Trainor at 608-267- 0848.

Federal Clean Vessel Act

Funds are available to construct pump-out and dump stations to dispose of sewage from recreational boaters as per Section 5604 of the Clean Vessel Act of 1992. Any private marina/business or local unit of government that is interested in applying for funds should contact their Regional Community Services Specialist. Contracts and use agreements may be negotiated with local units of government and private marinas. To receive funds, an applicant sends a letter of application including 1) description of the project; 2) explanation of why the project is needed; 3) a detailed cost breakdown; 4) a proposed timetable for completion of the project; and 5) a site map and location map of the project. Eligible projects include construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump out and dump stations, including: floating restrooms, not connected to land or structures, and structures connected to the land, used solely by boaters education and informational materials. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Forest Stewardship Grant

Funds are available to encourage private non-industrial forest landowners to consider all resources in the management of their forest lands utilizing existing State, Federal, and private sector resource management expertise and assistance programs as per U.S. Public Law 101-624, Title XII, and NR 47, Wis. Adm. Code. All interested groups, organizations, Federal, State and County officials and others interested in promoting the stewardship management of private non-industrial forest lands are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Forestry. A 50% local match is required. Applications are due March 15 each year. Projects that are directed toward one or more of the following are eligible (this is not a priority ranking): 1) encourage landowners to obtain a Forest Stewardship Plan to help meet their management objectives 2) protect the resources for future generations 3) educate landowners and the general public as to the importance of nonindustrial private (NIPF) lands. Contact Nicole Potvin at (608) 266-2388.

Forest Stewardship Incentives (SIP)

Funds are available to private forest landowners to implement practices that protect, maintain, and enhance forest resources including wetlands, lakes and streams as per U.S. Public Law 101- 624, Title XII, and NR 47, Wis. Adm. Code. Private non-industrial forest owners of at least ten acres, but not more than 1,000 acres who have an approved forest stewardship management plan are eligible to apply. Eligible landowners include: individuals, foreign owners, joint owners, American Indian Tribes or other native American groups, groups and associations, corporations without publicly traded stock and other private legal entities. There is a local match of up to 35% of the project costs with a maximum level stipulated in each specific practice. Application may be made at any time but are subject to a two month batching period for prioritization and funding of the highest priorities. Applications are available either from the Consolidated Farm Services Agency Office serving their county or the local DNR Forester's Office. Priorities are set by local DNR offices. The available practices are: 1) preparation of landowner Forest Stewardship plans; 2) tree planting; 3) forest stand improvement; 4) windbreak and shelterbelt planting; 5) soil and water protection and improvement; 6) riparian and wetland protection and improvement; 7) fisheries habitat improvement; and 8) wildlife habitat enhancement. Contact your county DNR Forester, or Linda DePaul at (608) 266-2388.

Ice Age Trail Maintenance

Funds are available for maintenance of the Ice Age Trail as per s. 20.370(1)(kb), Wis. Stats. and NR 51.74(6), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and private non-profit groups are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Priorities include projects that provide for significant public use, protect the resource or public safety or comfort, or portions of the trail owned by a local government or nonprofit conservation organization. Eligible activities include brush clearing, mowing, signs, bridge and boardwalk replacement and repairs, surface repairs, winter grooming, etc. on Ice Age Trail segments owned or managed by the DNR, dedicated to the DNR and managed under contract with DNR or recognized by DNR and certified by the National Park Service. Funds are for maintenance and development of the trail. Matching funds of up to 50% for purchase or lease of equipment and materials are available. Labor is not an eligible expense and in-kind contributions are not eligible for match. Contact Janet Beach Hanson.

Lake Planning Grant

Funds are available to collect and analyze information needed to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds as per s. 281.68, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, non-profit groups and qualified lake associations, as defined in s.30.92(1)(br) and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 67% up to a maximum of \$25,000 per Large Scale Lake grant and \$3,000 per Small Scale Lake Grant. Applications are due in region offices by February 1 and August 1 of each year. Types of projects include physical, chemical, biological, and sociological data collection, water quality assessment, and watershed evaluation including countywide or regional initiatives. Contact your Regional Lakes Program Coordinator.

Lake Protection Grant

Funds are available to protect and improve the water quality of lakes and their ecosystems as per s. 281.69, Wis. Stats. Grants are available for purchasing land or easements, restoration of wetlands, development of local regulations to protect water quality, lake improvement activities called for in a Department approved plan, and countywide lake classification. Counties, towns, cities, villages, public authorities and qualified lake associations as defined in s. 30.92(1)(br), Wis. Stats., public inland lake districts, non-profit groups, and other local governmental units established for lake management are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$200,000. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year. Eligible activities include: The purchase of land or of a conservation easement will substantially contribute to the protection or improvement of a lake's water quality or its natural ecosystem. The restoration of a wetland if the restoration will protect or improve a lake's water quality or its natural ecosystem. The restoration of habitat in a littoral area of a lake or along its shoreline if the restoration will protect or improve the lake's water quality or its natural ecosystem. The development of local regulations or ordinances that will protect or improve a lake's water quality or its natural ecosystem. An activity that is approved by the department and that is needed to implement a recommendation made as a result of a plan to improve or protect the quality of water in a lake or the natural ecosystem of a lake. A wetland enhancement or restoration project.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department. Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) Application of chemicals to remove Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). 7) Acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 8) Feasibility studies for safe boating facilities. 9) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to local units of government through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. Eligible sponsors may receive a grant for up to 50% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on Federal lands), and acquisition of easement or property for trails. Application forms are available from the Department. Funding priorities for motorized, non- motorized, or compatible/multiple use trails is (in order of descending priority): rehabilitation of existing trails, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Club Signs

Funds are available to provide free cardboard trail signs and reflective material to snowmobile clubs agreeing to open their trails to public use as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Funds are limited to no more than \$15,000 per year for the purchase of signs and reflective material. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state funding is limited to no more than \$15,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season. Contact your Regional

Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Funds are available to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment as per s. 23.09(26), and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. 100% cost sharing is provided with limits on maintenance costs of \$250 per mile of trail. Applications are due in the appropriate Region Office by April 15 of each year. Eligible projects include maintenance of trails, which includes signing, brushing, and grooming of snowmobile trails, purchase of liability insurance and acquisition of short term easements, development of trails which may include general trail construction, bridges, gates and signs, major rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges and rehabilitation of existing trail segments. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Stewardship Local Assistance Grant for Urban Green Space

Funds are available to provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, to protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas as per s. 23.09(19) Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, lake districts, Indian tribes with an approved Outdoor Recreation Plan and nonprofit conservation organizations under s. 23.096 Wis. Stats. are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the appropriate Region office by May 1 of each year. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Urban Rivers Grant

Funds are available to improve outdoor recreation opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, economic revitalization through the improvement of the environmental quality in urban river corridors, and preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas as per s. 30.277, Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, and Tribal units of government are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. Applications are due in the Region office by May 1 of each year.

This is a very competitive program, and it has been necessary to develop a comprehensive rating and ranking system to evaluate projects. Those projects which receive the highest scores will receive funding. There is a cap of 20% which means that no sponsor can receive more than 20% of the funds available in any fiscal year. Eligible projects include acquiring land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways. Acquisition of blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities. Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations. Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways. Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies. Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.

APPENDIX B: State SCORP Priorities

STATE PRIORITY RATINGS

The following is a summary of outdoor goals and actions making up the recreational priorities, which are taken from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2005-2010. Of the strategies discussed in this comprehensive plan, maintaining and restoring locations for outdoor recreation were a high priority. Other high priorities include adding to and improving Wisconsin's outdoor recreational opportunities. Manage conflict between different activities such as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Provide education and programming on outdoor recreational activities. Improve access to recreational areas and waters. Understand how expanding urban areas place increased demands on outdoor recreational space while reducing the amount of land available. Find ways to financially support Wisconsin's outdoor recreational opportunities

Issue I: Protect, Restore, and Enhance Wisconsin's Natural Resources for Outdoor Recreation

- Support and fund the Smart Growth Planning process to help stop the fragmentation of open spaces while also allowing for development.
- Protect lakes, rivers, and streams and to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, and fisheries.
- Provide programs and funding for access to industrial forestry lands for outdoor recreation activities.
- Fund assistance for the restoration of native prairies and grassland ecosystems.
- Implement an invasive species control program on Wisconsin lands and waters.
- Protect wetlands, thereby benefiting the ecological and recreational resources of the state.

Issue II: Continue to Improve and Develop Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- Maintain and renovate outdoor recreation facilities for future generations.
- Provide for continued development and enhancements of urban outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer fields and playground equipment.
- Provide for expansion of the following trail systems: hiking, biking, horse, and water.
- Enhance and upgrade signage and maps for all outdoor recreational lands and waters.
- Continue to acquire lands for outdoor recreation at all levels of government.
- Support publicly funded programs that provide financial assistance for the actions listed above

Issue III: Understand and Manage the Growing Issue of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Conflict

- Proactively plan for increased user conflicts and provide for increased recreation uses consistent with the state's growth in population.
- Develop public and private management tools for addressing user conflicts.
- Increase funding for outdoor recreation law enforcement authorities to the nationwide average, so that they may better enforce outdoor rules and regulations.
- Examine and understand Wisconsin's capacity for local and state recreation growth according to the state's natural resource base.
- Designate more public land for recreational use to better meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation.

- Examine options such as private landowner incentive programs, which would allow public access to private lands

Issue IV: Continue to Provide Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Education and Programming

- Provide funding and support for joint outdoor recreation programs between schools, government, and communities.
- Provide funding and support for more outdoor recreation skills courses.
- Develop programs that begin to address the state's diversifying urban populations.
- Develop and support programs that bring nature based experiences close to home for urban, low income youth.
- Provide more courses in environmental education and ethics.

Issue V: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Water

- Develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points across the state.
- Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
- Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities Available within a given region.
- Continue to increase public access to Wisconsin waterways.
- Continue to improve disabled accessibility for outdoor recreation facilities, and promote the development of facilities using universal design standards

Issue VI: Understand the Threats and Opportunities of Wisconsin's Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth

- Continue to protect prime recreation lands with publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program.
- Develop trail networks that offer easy access from urban/suburban areas to rural areas.
- Encourage communities to develop park and open space plans that allow for balanced growth while also providing land and facilities for outdoor recreation.
- Continue to develop and provide active outdoor sports facilities such as soccer fields and tennis courts.
- Continue to provide and expand community and neighborhood parks for multiple forms of outdoor recreation

Issue VII: Maintain and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation.

- Renew the Warren Knowles–Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program.
- Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
- Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to acquire, develop, and maintain Recreational lands and facilities.
- Increase Wisconsin State Parks funding to the nationwide average.
- Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among multiple government agencies.

- Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
- Explore the option of an exercise tax on outdoor recreational equipment to help fund park and recreation developments

Issue VIII: Maintain and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation.

- Encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups, and schools to become physically active by promoting programs such as the Governor’s Wisconsin Challenge program.
- Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin” campaign for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of recreation and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
- Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
- Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday – giving employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, providing exercise equipment and changing rooms, etc.
- Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development

